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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 2018

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IPI in talks with Pacific Rim as new contractor



UPDATES ON CUC PROJECTS

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David Carter talks with a project contractor's representative during a tour yesterday at the newly-built water tank at the Northern Marianas College. Listening to the discussion are the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. counsel, board directors and officials, along with U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency counsels and officials, and Gilbane Federal officials. Carter also inspected other CUC projects during the tour.

'Teacher Pearl' is MCS Teacher of the Year

By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Mount Carmel School named Kindergarten teacher Zhenzhu Jin yesterday as its Teacher of the Year for 2018.

Jin, more affectionately known within the MCS community as "Teacher Pearl," was recognized with other MCS teachers and staff during the school's 2018 Faculty



Mount Carmel School's Teacher of the Year awardee Zhenzhu "Teacher Pearl" Jin, at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony held yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium in

BEA CABRERA

and Staff Appreciation Ceremony vesterday. Priscilla T. Dela Cruz was also honored as the school's 2018 Staff of the Year.

According to MCS school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Jin won the coveted plum for many reasons.

"What makes me proud of Pearl is that she was an international student that studied at

See TEACHER on Page 4

By ERWIN ENCINARES

fter several months without a main contractor to continue building its casino resort in Garapan, Imperial Pacific International, LLC confirmed with the Commonwealth Casino Commission yesterday that they are in talks with a Guam-based construction firm with access to U.S. eligible workers.

See IPI on Page 4

Torres: CHCC bill created without my knowledge

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres insists he has nothing to do with the creation of a bill that intends to abolish the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and return it to its former status as a line department under the Office of the Governor.

Speaking to reporters after a proclamation signing at Marianas High School yesterday morning, Torres said he was

See TORRES on Page 4

Blue moon, supermoon, total lunar eclipse rolled into one

By MARCIA DUNN AP AEROSPACE WRITER

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The moon is providing a rare triple treat this week.

On Wednesday, much of the world will get to see not only a blue moon and a supermoon, but also a total lunar eclipse, all rolled into one. There hasn't been a triple lineup like this since 1982 and the next won't occur until 2037.

The eclipse will be visible best across the Pacific and Asia as the moon rises Wednesday night into Thursday.

The U.S. East Coast will be out of luck; the moon will be setting just as the



In this Aug. 28, 2007, file photo, the moon takes on different orange tones during a lunar eclipse seen from Mexico City. During a lunar eclipse, the moon's disk can take on a colorful appearance from bright orange to blood red to dark brown and, rarely, very dark gray. On Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018, a super moon, blue moon and a lunar eclipse will coincide for eclipse gets started. Europe first time since 1982 and will See MOON on Page 4 not occur again until 2037. AP

INSIDE



ASIA

A significant amount of ash has fallen on towns near the Philippines' Mavon Volcano.



WORLD

Floodwaters have peaked in Paris and are threatening towns downstream.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

Chris Pratt appears in an upcoming Super Bowl spot about Michelob beer.

PAGE 20



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2 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

Nursing board works on being more accessible

By BEA CABRERA

bea cabrera@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Plagued by complaints about being inaccessible, the CNMI Nursing Board has doubled its staff and has made improvements in how they can be reached by nurses here and off-island.

According to CNMI Nursing Board office manager Carol Fleming, they acknowledge the feedback they have gotten about off-island nurses having a hard time getting in touch with them.

"We [used to have] only one staff, one email address, and one landline. Since we recognize the need of our nurses, especially the ones who are abroad, we doubled the accessibility in those areas. We added another staff, email address, and landline," she said.

Fleming pointed out that the board receives approximately 150 to 200 applications from nurses here and abroad for them to be able to take their licensure exam wherever they are, license renewal, verification, and endorsements.

"So now we have two staff



From left, CNMI Nursing Board office manager Carol Fleming, administrative assistant Richelle Borja, and administrative clerk Diosalyn Matagolai with the documents they work on everyday to make sure all documents of every CNMI nurse here and abroad are complete and complied with.

workers, our email addresses are nmibon@gmail.com and cbone@pticom.com and our landlines are (670) 2322263 and (670) 2342264.

"We do have a voice mail now, too, but we are restricted from receiving long-distance calls. But with the voicemail, we would like everyone to know that, if they would like us to get back to them, they can just give us their email address. ...Other than that, we cannot make long-distance calls," added Fleming.

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due to popular demand a New Year Mystery Wallet Draw!

She said the CNMI Board of Nursing website is active and if applicants are experiencing difficulty, more often than not, it is the website security that makes it difficult for them to get through.

"Due to website security, our nurses are unable to download the forms. Some complain that they cannot access the forms and applications. It's beyond our control if the security system in their software... at work limits them from accessing our website," she said.

"Sometimes, nurses here in the CNMI also experience security issues and cannot access online. What we do is they email us and we can send them the forms needed," she added.

With two working staff, Fleming takes care of completing the documents of each applicant.

"Completing an applicant's list of documents does not happen in one sitting. Sometimes, we have to wait for other documents to reach us and, once it is complete, we elevate the documents to the board," she said.

Without a complete set of documents, the board is unable to review the application itself.

"This review takes about 2 to 4 weeks and sometimes less," she added.

After the board reviews the documents, a certificate of approval is sent to the applicant via email.

"This approval will now allow them to go ahead and register if they are ready to take the NCLEX. It is up to them to review and take the NCLEX and, after that's done, we get the results. Everyday, we check our system and if the results are out, we send it to

them," she said.

"I know some of them complain because we cannot send test results [but that is] because we are wary of breaches. Sometimes there are personal information in there, that's why we do not send via email," she added.

Fleming assured that the board has a system in place and asks for the patience of nurses.

"We are working diligently to make sure everything is up to date. It is a long process because there are many documents that we receive via email and snail mail. There are other factors at play, such as not sending everything at the same time, but we are improving speed, accessibility, and service," she said.

"For delays that we can control, the board addresses and we definitely do our part. We ask for patience and, again, we assure that we are doing our best to be of service to our nurses," she added.

Man, 78, arrested for alleged indecent exposure

Police arrested last Thursday a 78-year-old man who allegedly exposed his privates to a 13-year-old girl during a relative's death rosary on Saipan.

Juan Flores Norita was brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo last Monday on charges of indecent exposure and child abuse.

His bail was set at \$25,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Feb. 7 at 9am.

According to police, an officer responded to a report of sexual abuse of a minor made by a school counselor last Thursday.

The 13-year-old girl told the officer that Norita showed his privates in front of her during her uncle's death rosary in October 2017. The girl said she ran outside the house and started crying. A witness told police of seeing the girl leaving the house during the same rosary and appeared sad. The witness told police that she asked the girl what's wrong and that she was told that Norita showed her his privates.

Police later met a 15-yearold girl who alleged that Norita told her something last November that disgusted her. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Demapan is new CDA chair

By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com REPORTER

David S. Demapan is the new chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority board, replacing Ignacio Perez on the seat.

Demapan was elected chairman during a board meeting last Saturday. The chairmanship has been vacant since Dec. 20.

Along with Demapan, who represents Saipan, others elected last Saturday were vice chair Diego M. Songao of Rota and Frank Lee Borja from Tinian as board secretary.

CDA executive director Manual A. Sablan said that, as the board officials have just been named, meeting agendas and projects have yet to be



Demapan



Borja



Songao

planned.

"Since the board is new, we have not discussed any plans that we plan to execute in 2018 but we are putting together our budget to meet the requirements that will be submitted to Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres," he said. "Hopefully, we would all be able to sit down and review the budget at the next board meeting."

Demapan's election to the CDA chairmanship also

means the agency will finally have a representative on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board. Public Law 18-17, Article 3, Section 8131 states that the CDA chairman simultaneously holds a seat on the CUC board.

Last Jan. 2, CUC had its first board meeting for 2018 without a chairman.

The term of former CDA chair Ignacio Perez expired last Dec. 20, making him lose his seat at the CUC board.

"Our new board chair Demapan should be in the next CUC board meeting to represent the CDA and we know our chair will do a great job at that," Sablan said.

"The CDA board members work and collaborate very well. We don't see any potential problem on this thing as the board has been working closely and this is just a change of leadership but still working on the same goals," Sablan added.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Aircraft carrier to make Guam visit

SANTA RITA, Guam—Aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is scheduled to make a visit to U.S. Naval Base Guam tomorrow, Jan. 31, marking the ship's first port call during a Western Pacific deployment in 2018

Led by commanding offi-

NMC DONATION

cer Capt. Douglas Verissimo, Vinson is the flagship for Carrier Strike Group 1. The strike group previously visited Guam while operating in the region last February.

On Jan. 5, the carrier departed San Diego with an air wing complement of more than 70 aircraft.

Commissioned in 1982,

independent living skills, advocacy, peer counseling, and information, and referral.

Northern

Marianas

ollege

Jennifer-Eilleen Castro, UCEDD program manager. CLI's vision is to provide a comprehensive range of services that will make it possible

for people with disabilities to live as independently as they choose within the community. Some of the agency's services include transition,

Vinson is America's third Nimitz-class aircraft carrier. (PR)

Chamber training on use of social media

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a training seminar called "Social Media for Business!" on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, from

9am to 11:30am at the Chamber's conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315).

This seminar will focus on the effective use of social media to find new customers, engage existing customers, and enhance the overall effectiveness and success of your business. Both retail and

service industries can greatly benefit from the free advertising available online.

Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for nonmembers. Reservations and advance payment are required. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@ saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Family grief support group to meet on Feb. 1

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 6pm to 7:30p, at the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, e-mail tcf-Saipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit www.com-

There will be construction and

bound lane of Beach Road in between Llat Street and Alas Street in Garapan until March 25, 2018. The road is expected to re-open on March 25, 2018. This will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, RNV Construction, to perform renovations on a sewer lift station, S-10. Due to the closure of the northbound lane and for the safety of the community, motorists and large vehicles are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when travel-

Military training at FDM

ing through the area. (PR)

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Jan. 31, from 9:30am to 11:59pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)









Disbarred lawyer asks to be reinstated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A disbarred lawyer has asked the CNMI Supreme Court to reinstate his license so he can again practice law in the

Joseph A. Arriola promised that, if given the chance to practice law anew, he is committed to maintaining the same efforts toward rehabilitation that he has made since 2010.

To support his petition,

Arriola vowed to continue his public advocacy in drug awareness and prevention, particularly in both private and public schools.

The CNMI Supreme Court will hear the petition on Feb. 8 at 10am.

Arriola pointed out that during the course of his three-year federal criminal probation, he was compliant with the federal court's instructions on his restitution obligation.

Since the date of his proba-

tion discharge in March 2016 until the present, he said he continues to remain compliant with his restitution payment obligation.

"I am tremendously remorseful, not just for my wrongful conduct, but most especially for the consequences that resulted therefrom," said Arriola.

Arriola pleaded guilty in June 2010 to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud. In October that year, he started to serve his 58-month prison term. He was required to pay \$625,775 in restitution with co-defendant, Luis K. Pelisamen.

In September 2010, the Superior Court disbarred Arriola from practicing law based on his federal conviction.

After serving the prison term, Arriola official began his three-year probation in August 2012.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI welcomes new CEO, chairman

With the resignation of Mark Brown last December 2017, Imperial Pacific International welcomes a new chief executive officer and board chairman.

Effective last Jan. 10, 2018, IPI appointed Teng Sio I as chairman and effective last Aug. 1, 2017, appointed Henry Cheang as CEO of IPI.

According to Eric Poon of

IPI, discussions between Pa-

studying the site and setting up

IPI's former main contrac-

tor, MCC International, has

left the CNMI after being

caught harboring a large num-

ber of illegal aliens and allow-

ing them to work on the con-

struction of the casino resort.

Since then, IPI has cut ties

with them, forcing the casino

resort's construction to remain

Meanwhile, a highly placed

stagnant for several months.

pre-construction necessities.

In a statement from IPI, it said that Teng would be overseeing and supervising all Saipan operations, including its hotel, while Cheang would be overseeing and managing the operations of all gamingrelated operations.

Teng, besides being IPI executive director, has over 12 years of human resource

tails of Phase 2 of the contract,

which pertains to the mobili-

management experience; human resource knowledge in the gaming industry; and possesses extensive casino resort experience.

He is a former human resource executive of leading gaming industry corporations in Macau and was in charge of pre-opening mass recruitment for projects.

Cheang is a 12-year casino industry veteran who has con-

nections with the opening of several gaming properties in Macau, including the Galaxy Macau, Crown Macau, and MGM Macau.

Cheang acted as the leader in planning and floor designs, financial and budgeting, operational system design, auditing, marketing and analyzing, training and operational management of staff in previous positions. (Erwin Encinares)

source in the casino commis-IPI sion confirmed with Saipan From Page 1 Tribune that as of 7pm yesterday, IPI is finalizing the de-

cific Rim Constructors from zation of workers. "IPI construction manage-Guam and IPI have been onment and Pacific Rim congoing since December 2017. He confirmed with the comstruction management are trymission that they have signed ing to work together to figure phase one of the contract, out our plan to finish construction," Poon reported to the which involves Pacific Rim

> Despite this, commission vice chair Joseph Reyes remains skeptical of IPI's ability to complete the casino resort by its deadline of August 2018.

commission.

"We just want to see this thing move forward," said Reyes, as he questioned Poon on the staffing and costs of the project. "I've seen some of these areas. You are still on the second floor.'

"I want you guys to be transparent," added Reyes, as he challenged the reported 64-percent completion rate of the casino resort as stated in the handouts to the commission.

Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said that IPI has paid Pacific Rim "a certain amount" to conduct preliminary reviews; to asses the condition of the building; and to calculate how much more it would take to

"That has been paid for and we wait for the final results of the report," said Deleon Guerrero.

Poon responded: "I hear loud and clear the frustrations of everybody—from the public; from the CCC; from my own company. Nobody wants to see the building like that. It's an eyesore."

Poon added that while IPI is

working "110 percent to get it done," what IPI really needs is

'We need time and we need to execute our contract so we can move on," he said.

Going back to his report, Poon said that while January 2018 did not yield much movement on the construction of the casino resort, the focus was on the main landscape on the northern side. He said the target date for its completion is before the Chinese New Year, which is on Feb. 16, 2018.

When asked on how much manpower Pacific Rim was committed to providing, Poon said there was nothing specific.

When asked if he remains confident that the casino resort would be built by August 2018, Poon replied yes but they would only get to complete the 250-room requirement.

TORRES

From Page 1

not aware of the drafting of the legislation.

"That's a very contentious bill; it's a political year...For the record that bill was created without my knowledge...It is a totally separate [creation] of the House," Torres said.

Despite that, Torres assured that his intention—to provide quality healthcare for the Commonwealth community—remains.

"At the end of the day, my priority is to provide better healthcare, provide services, get equipment and supplies that the hospital needs," he said. "I gave my word to support buying the equipment and we're negotiat-

ing already on buying them the [list of] equipment that [hospital administrator] Jesse Tudela gave me several months ago," he added.

In the event the bill to abolish CHCC goes through, Torres said he would ensure that any current progress is not

"There will be no changes to the departments. Whatever you head, you head that department," he said. "I appreciate that all the staff in the hospital, the nurse and the doctors, are absolutely vital to our health here in the community and their work is appreciated... there is no firing or any threats to any of the other staff," he added.

According to Torres, there will be public hearing relating to the bill and he looks for-

ward to what the community has to say about it.

"I think they are going to be doing public hearings, as the author mentioned... I respect the intent of the bill and, again, is it the right time to do it? We'll see what will come of the public hearing," he said.

We'll go out there to the community and hear if they are happy with the services, are there more services that they want and that's what the bill is about? ... We'll listen to the community, then we can have a better judgment whether the effort to continue to abolish it [CHCC] and make it a line department, or if there are other issues that need to be addressed before abolishing the board, then we'll do that," he added.

He also assured that he has

nothing against CHCC CEO Esther Muña and respects the CHCC board's decision on her role at the hospital.

"I have no personal agendas with the CEO. I personally like her and I have nothing personally against her and I respect the board, as they are my board. Whatever the decision they make, I'll respect that," he said.

A previous Saipan Tribune story reported that Torres had asked the CHCC board to terminate Muña.

Torres said yesterday that his only issue with Muña was in regards to CHCC funding, but after saying his piece, he has since moved on.

"I have nothing bad to say in terms of any personal issues. ... I said my piece and I moved forward," he said.

TEACHER

From Page 1

Northern Marianas College. When she came here (Saipan), she struggled with English and I know this because I taught at the college and I got to know her from there," he said.

"To see her thrive as a student at NMC, graduate with an education degree, plant her roots here, work hard as a teacher and now awarded as the Teacher of the Year is such a great story. Her life and work also represents what our school is all about-students coming from different backgrounds and helping them succeed and these are exactly what Pearl has done," he added.

To be an MCS Teacher of the Year, you have to know what you are doing in terms of technique, instructional strategies, good classroom management, and, above all, to show you care for students, your Deleon Guerrero said.

"Teachers go through observations classroom where we invite professionals in the community usually from NMC and [the Public School System] and they come in and conduct classroom observations. They have a scoring rubric. They follow it and whoever gets the highest score wins it," he said.

"We have a saying that we live by here at MCS. People don't care how much you know them until they know how much you care and Pearl has shown us just that. She is usually here at 6:30 in the morning, first to get here and usually the last person to leave. She signs up for a lot of additional trainings even though she has a degree and this shows she is determined to be a

lifelong learner," he added.

Jin herself was ecstatic about the award.

"I wasn't expecting this but I am very happy. I know there is still a lot of room for improvement to learn more and I am going to train harder to [improve] myself each and everyday," she said.

"I love children, especially the younger children. When I see their development and growth, that makes me very happy. This is the biggest award I have ever received in my life and, as a new teacher with not much experience, I am so thankful to everyone who gave me this chance. Everyone is so helpful, showed love and touched my heart," she added.

Deleon Guerrero said the appreciation ceremony was the school's way of giving back to the dedicated people at MCS.

"Teachers give a lot. People who enter teaching as a profession don't do it for fame and recognition. They do it because they love what they do and the students that they serve," he said.

"It's very easy for teachers to burn out because they are so passionate and that is why it is important for students, parents, and all of us to show them how much we appreciate what they do," he added.

This year, MCS is pushing 600 students as far as enrollment is concerned that they had to open up additional sections in the 6th and 8th grades and hire adjunct instructors.

"We do our best to accommodate enrolment growth and, at the same time, a high level of instructional quality.

...We have very strict rules in maintaining small class sizes so if a class is already full, we put the kids on the waiting list," Deleon Guerrero said.

MOON

From Page 1

and most of Africa and South America also will pretty much miss the show.

A blue moon is the second full moon in a month. A supermoon is a particularly close full or new moon, appearing somewhat brighter and bigger. A total lunar to impress, provided the skies eclipse—or blood moon for are clear.

its reddish tinge-has the moon completely bathed in Earth's shadow.

"I'm calling it the Super Bowl of moons," lunar scientist Noah Petro said Monday from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Others prefer "super blue blood moon."

Either way, it's guaranteed

VISIBILITY

According to www.timeanddate.com, the total lunar eclipse will be visible in the CNMI:

Duration: 5 hours, 17 minutes, 16 seconds Duration of totality: 1 hour, 16 minutes, 4 seconds

Penumbral begins: Jan 31 at 8:51:13pm Partial begins: Jan 31 at 9:48:27pm Full begins: Jan 31 at 10:51:47pm Maximum: Jan 31 at 11:29:51pm Full ends: Feb 1 at 12:07:51am

Partial ends: Feb 1 at 1:11:11am Penumbral ends: Feb 1 at 2:08:29am

DCCA begins 2nd year of program to boost CNMI childcare

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care and Development Fund Program has officially launched the second year of its pilot program—Reach Higher, CNMI: Quality Rating and Improvement System-in an hourlong orientation and meeting with childcare providers.

According to CCDF administrator Maribel Loste, over 60 childcare providers and their directors participated in the orientation.

The first meeting was held at the San Antonio Social Hall, with Dr. Jasmin Jones of Evergreen Learning, Inc., program manager and QRIS assessor, facilitating the orientation.

Loste said they also reached out to caregivers and Gana Day Care, Golden Harvest Day Care, Holy Angel Day Care, Loving Hands Day Care, N.M.I.S., Pure Love Day Care, R & EQ Day Care, and Smart Start Nurturing Center were in attendance.

"We discussed the application process, timelines, dates to remember, onsite visits for baseline scores, onsite visits for determining Star Levels, Quality Improvement Plans, and coaching. The Quality Rating and Improvement System is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs in the Commonwealth," Loste said.

Commonwealth.

fordable," Hunter said.

accessing quality childcare training or higher education.

reliable options for childcare. Oftentimes, all members of the household are seeking trainand need childcare support. I for honing in on improving

having safe, affordable, and ing, working, or doing both childcare standards and implementing a rating system that commend the CCDF program parents and caregivers can rely on. Regulating childcare

facilities protects families, our team for keeping the momencommunity and, most importantly, our children. I express my gratitude to the CCDF

tum of this pilot program going and reaching out to all our caregivers," Torres said. (PR)





2017 KIA SPORTAGE SX TURBO Stk# H7046774 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 LITER Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 12699 Color: BLUE



N CUSTOMER CHEC



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Stk# DC843965

Drivetrain: FWD

Color: BLACK

Engine: 3.5 LITER

Est. Mileage: 35550

S18.995

2012 KIA SEDONA LX

Engine: 3.5 Liter DOHC

Transmission: Automatic

Est. Mileage: 45060

\$11.995

Stk# C6507846 Drivetrain: FWD

Color: GRAY

Transmission: Automatic CV



2014 NISSAN MAXIMA SV Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6-CYL Transmission: Automati Est. Mileage: 25,775

Orivetrain: 4WD

Engine: 4.0 Liter

ransmission: Automati

Est. Mileage: 41328

Color: Brilliant Silver

STOCK # EM124755

Engine: 1.6 Liter TiVCT

Transmission: AUTO

Est. Mileage: 36,950

S10.995

Drivetrain: FWD

Color: GREEN



Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter said the quality rating and improvement system began as a way to strengthen and increase the standards of childcare in the

"The Childcare Licensing Program is responsible for licensing and inspecting all childcare services in the CNMI, family childcare, group care homes, and afterschool programs. The QRIS pilot program helps inform our caregivers and ensure health and safety standards are being met. We acknowledge that with consistent outreach and caregiver training, we can increase the quality and access of caregiving for the community that is also reliable and af-

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that the Childcare and Development Fund continues to be instrumental in assisting low-income families in while parents participate in job

"It is essential that parents have the opportunity to seek gainful employment while



Color: White





2015 NISSAN QUEST S Stk# F9123375 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5L V6 DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 18425 20,995



Est. Mileage: 22,050 MILES Color: BLUE/WHITE S18.995 **2016 KIA SOUL EX** Stk# G7313155 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 L DOHC 16 valves Transmission: Automatic

Est. Mileage: 23540 S18.995 **2014 KIA SEDONA LX** Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6-CYL Transmission: Automatic

2016 KIA SOUL Stk# G7384823 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 36970 \$17,995



2016 KIA SPORTAGE LX Stk# G7839370 Drivetrain: AWD Engine: 2.4-liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 29200 \$17,995





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See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist. Some conditions apply.





In less than three months, over 100 tour guides have already been certified under the Marianas Visitors Authority's Tour Guide Certification Program.

"We are extremely pleased to have the cooperation and support of the many tour guides and tour operators who received their training and earned their certifications in these few short months," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Even with staggered schedules, some of the larger companies have already completed the certification of all their guides, even 20 or more. This is the beginning of a higher level of service, and expectedly, higher visitor satisfaction with our destination."

Certified tour operators include Pacific Eagle Enterprise, Hana Tour Service, Yellow Balloon Tour, Saipan Adventure, Long Tong Tour, Zheng Chen Corp., Saipan Grace Tour Agency, J.J. Corp., Light Star Corp., Century Tours Ocean Plus, Modern Tour, Saipan Travel Inc., and Pacific Micronesia Tours.

The MVA is focusing new attention on ensuring all guides have at least applied and met all requirements, while they await classes.

"We are being proactive in reaching out to tour guides at their place of business and even at tourist sites, working to ensure they have applied and have at least a temporary permit to operate while they work toward completing certification," said tour guide certification manager Kuen- Hee Han. "We understand the ports police are also starting to check permits at the airport when they

Tour guides come into compliance



see the need, and we are very grateful for this cross-agency enforcement support."

The Northern Marianas College provides 20 hours of class instruction on Monday through Friday beginning at 5pm, including CNMI history, CNMI geography, CNMI rules and regulations, principles of tour guiding/tour operations, tour guide customer service, tour guide safety & security, protecting the environment, and CNMI culture and legends. Additional classes will be provided beginning February 2018.

"Some tour guides have

shared that they feel a new sense of responsibility since taking the classes," Concepcion said. "They feel a heightened sense of ownership, and some have even started picking up garbage during breaks in their tour at Managaha and other locations. It's a new generation of guides for the Marianas."

Tour guide application fees are \$50, tour operator application fees are \$100, and the tuition to attend classes is \$250. Tour guides will be required to complete the training course and pass a final comprehensive exam to receive certification. As proposed under draft

guides will also be required to provide police and traffic clearances. Tour guides will be required to display their badges when conducting tours. The certification would be valid for three years unless revoked or suspended, but the badge would need to be renewed every year.

regulations, individual tour

Tour operators and tourist land/sea transport operators would be required to provide:
1) proof that the applicants maintain an office within the CNMI, 2) a certification that the applicant does not employ any tour guides that are not

IAO believes proficiency in indigenous language a skill

The Indigenous Affairs Office believes that proficient speakers of the Chamorro and Carolinian languages should be considered skilled.

Indigenous Affairs resident executive Roman Tudela said he could not stress enough that both languages are slowly but surely dying and remains thankful that there are still a handful who can proficiently read, write, and speak both languages.

He said yesterday that these people should be considered skilled because they are rare.

"I strongly agree that this should be considered a specialized field of study and we need to recruit and train individuals who can read, write, and speak Chamorro or Carolinian," he said.

The IAO has been fighting to provide an alternative certification process to proficient indigenous language speakers to fill the need for bilingual teachers in the Marianas. It is believed that this would allow these "professionals" a chance at an entry-level teaching job without the current requirements.

The Board of Education has not adopted the alternative certification process as the IAO had proposed, so the IAO decided to hold village meetings to gather feedback from the community.

certified pursuant to the regu-

lations, 3) proof that the applicant maintains a bank account

in the CNMI under the business' name, 4) the applicant's

business license, 5) the name of an employee or a retained

independent contractor who is

fluent in the English language,

and 6) proof that the applicant

is a member in good standing

monetary sanctions, revoca-

tion of a certification and/or

business license, refusal to is-

sue or renew a certification,

or equitable sanctions. Under

the current law, the MVA and

other government agencies are

responsible for enforcement.

The MVA will also allow its

security guards stationed at

major tourist sites to act as en-

For an application and

checklist, email info@my-

marianas.com. For more in-

formation, contact Han at

khan@mymarianas.com

forcement officials.

664-3200. (MVA)

Violations may result in

with the MVA.

Tudela said many community members, with the exception of a few individuals who had their concerns, supported the proposal.

After the village meetings, Tudela drafted a letter that summarized the comments and concerns of the community.

The letter was delivered to Board of Education chair Marylou Ada last Jan. 26, but the office has yet to respond to the letter.

Tudela said they received complaints from Tinian and Rota that many bilingual teachers do not actually know the language and are not Chamorro or Carolinian.

The meetings were conducted in Tanapag, Kagman, San Vicente, San Antonio, Carolinian Utt, Sinapalo Rota, and San Jose, Tinian and gained the participation of over 50 people. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

EPA: CUC's delays in some projects due to administration, procurement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has experienced some delays in initiating some projects due to project planning, administration, and procurement issues, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA environmental engineer F. Russell Mechem II also disclosed that CUC, EPA, and other parties have been holding fruitful discus-

sions to further define upcoming CUC projects.

Mechem said that CUC continued work on several projects using CUC's technical manager for Oil and the TMO fund.

Mechem said CUC reports that it is moving ahead with contracts but has experienced some delays in performing some projects.

He said the parties will have a discussion as part of a status conference to be held in federal court that will address the need to accelerate project start-up and implementation schedules.

Mechem said discussion will also explore opportunities for CUC to perform limited environmental response or "clean-up" actions.

The EPA has designated Mechem since November 2015 as technical representative and project coordinator for stipulated order number 2. SO2 requires a list of projects to be completed relating to oil spill prevention,

preparedness, and response.

Mechem's declaration was attached to the U.S. government's January 2018 status report on CUC projects submitted by the U.S. Department of Justice to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Although fruitful discussions have been ongoing, Mechem said the parties will take advantage of in person meetings as part of the status conference to further define SO2 projects.



SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 05, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "H" PICK UP TRUCK 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (TINIAN BRANCH)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORY OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRAUTITIES. KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO ACTING SECRETARY. DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB18-LB-048

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRAURY 20, 2018

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCK, 4WD, FOUR FULL DOOR FOR THE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUREAU"

Dees of the specifications may be obtained at the office of the director of procifement and the office of the director of the dir

SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTONIO P. SABLAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-051

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 05, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TALAKHAYA WATERSHED REVEGETATION PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISON OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECITON 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AN WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECRS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

TIN CARDEDA /S/HEDMANS SARI

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA Administrator. Becq /S/ HERMAN S. SABLA Director, P&S

An evening of hats and friendship

Officers and members of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation hosted the 2018 Miss Marianas contestants and Stellar Marianas volunteers Saturday evening in a creative display of hats and headpieces.

First lady Diann Torres and Villa Hocog, wife of Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, came up with a fun concept, a "Wacky Hat Party" for Saturday evening's event and encouraged the young women to create their own hats or pick one that has personal meaning to them.

Torres also asked them to bring five personal items that describe a little about themselves for a fun way to get to know each other more.

"I, along with [Villa] and the LDT Foundation, would like to congratulate all of you for a wonderful job in volunteering for our community and we are happy to support your journey in representing our CNMI to the best of your abilities," said Torres.



2018 Miss Marianas contestants share a laugh with first lady Diann Torres, far right, and Lady Diann Torres Foundation board member Shirley Sablan during the foundation's Wacky Hat party Saturday evening.

LDT Foundation vice president Geraldine Delacruz pointed out to the young women that the foundation supports achievements of women all over the NMI and, by being contestants, "you took this important first step and no matter what happens, you should continue to be active in our community and help in any

way you can."

Villa reminded the candidates to continue to be positive role models for the community.

Miss Marianas contestant Eden Conner created a hat that had a floral pin from her brother's wedding, a memory she keeps close to her heart, while contestant Jaiden McPhetres Santos made a pink floral hat that represented her love for nature.

Cris Noel Obaldo was inspired to have the award-winning movie *Notebook* look with a sundress hat, and Kaysha Aguon Cruz, who loves to make her own crafts, made a sparkling gold floral hat.

Leisha Mendiola Deleon

Guerrero made a headpiece with fresh flowers and butterflies to share her love for natural beauty, while Chloe Parrone Salvosa wore a cute ribbon hat to reflect her simple and fun personality.

Maricris Zapanta, who won the hat of the evening, turned a floral pot into a nature-inspired hat complete with a waterfall and Celine Concepcion Cabrera turned a woven hat into a natural garden with fresh orchids and flowers.

Miss Marianas Peachy Quitigua wore a coconut leaf hat woven by her grandmother to highlight her childhood of being raised on the farm and her love for nature.

The 2018 Miss Marianas contestants walked the catwalk and explained their hat creations, boosting their public speaking skills and presentation skills.

LDTF volunteers also hosted games that elicited a lot of laughs and team-building skills among the young women.

LDTF is a nonprofit organization with three main goals to support women, cultural literacy, and bettering lives in the CNMI.

"We extend our heartfelt thank you to [Torres, Villa], and LDTF for their continual support. It is deeply appreciated. We are so glad we share the same vision in bringing our Commonwealth to the world's stage in the most positive light through the achievements of our intelligent and strong young women, our natural beauty and hospitality," said Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer.

"This evening was so much fun and we got to know our contestants so much more, see their creativity and how much more confident they have become," she added.

The 2018 Miss Marianas pageant is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Tickets at \$40 per person are available through each of the contestants.

For more information on Stellar Marianas, visit www. facebook.com/stellarmarianas and for LDTF at www. facebook.com/ladydianntorres. (PR)

House OKs \$24M-plus supplemental appropriation

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed a supplemental appropriation last Friday to divvy up \$24 million collected from the Saipan Casino Operator's Business Gross Revenue Tax.

The House passed the budget bill with a unanimous vote of 17-0.

Reps. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Joseph "Leepan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), along with House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), were absent from the session.

A total of \$16.5 million from the Casino Generated Gross Revenue Tax, or CGRT, was available for appropriation. An additional \$5.9 million, along with an additional \$1.5 million, were added from leftover balances of previous appropriations.

Over \$11.8 million in supplemental funding goes to the Public School System for school repairs; federal matching funds; purchase of instructional materials; employer share increases for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for health and life insurance; utilities; purchase of school buses and vans; and the purchase of parts and fuel for the buses.

The bill earmarked \$150,000 to committees under the Board of Education, while the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. gets \$2.75 million for indigent care compensation and funding for electronic healthcare records system.

Some \$3 million goes to

land compensation, while \$1 million and \$500,000 goes to the *Mangloña v CNMI* and the *Tano Group v Department of Public Lands* cases, respectively.

The bill also set aside \$1 million and \$275,000 to the Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, respectively,

while \$500,000 and \$300,000 is allocated to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Development Fund and the Substance Abuse Recovery and Prevention, respectively.

Some \$850,000 is allocated for land compensation judgments on Rota, while \$850,000 is allocated for the

West San Jose Homestead Water Project on Tinian.

The new Planning and Development Office is allocated \$500,000, \$175,000 for the Office of Management and Budget, and \$126,056.35 is allocated to the Governor's Office to provide the CNMI with the "greatest level of advocacy in Washington, D.C."

The remaining \$50,000 is allocated for those who have

not been paid the outstanding retroactive lump-sum payments for active and inactive employees who got stuck in Step 12 during the financial austerity measures in the early 2000's, as provided by Public Law 19-75.

The bill's author, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), said he looks forward to introducing more funding measures for other agencies that

have "unmet needs."

"...We are looking forward to the next round of supplemental revenues wherein we will address other unmet needs in areas such as public safety, fire, customs, and the settlement fund. I have had discussions with Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and the Secretary of Finance with regards to some of these pending financial needs," he told Saipan Tribune.



Sailors aboard USS O'Kane visit SDA School

U.S. Navy sailors aboard the vessel USS *O'Kane* visited the SDA School last Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, to answer any question the students had about what happens aboard the vessel.

While on port on Saipan, four U.S. Navy sailors took time out of their liberty leave

and shared with SDA School's students information about the types of work they do on the ship. From an information systems technician to one of the cooks on board, some students couldn't run out of questions to ask about these sailors.

The four split into two sepa-

rate groups in order to cover more classrooms and to spend more time with the students aside from the morning popup assembly that happened Thursday morning.

The sailors made their way around to each elementary and middle school class with

enough time to spare, so they also popped in to a Child Development Center pre-Kindergarten class and play with them for a little bit.

The students they visited ranged from the age of 3 to 14.

After saying their final goodbye to SDA School principal Randy Yates and the campus, they proceeded to walk to their vehicle, but before the got in, they turned over their shoulder to see students at play. Instead of leaving at the time they had intended to, the sailors chose to stay another half-hour to play with the students on the

playground.

SDA School students and staff are thankful that these sailors took time out of their liberty leave to spend time with the students and share their experience on the USS *O'Kane*, with hopes to see them back on Saipan someday soon. *(PR)*



SDA School principal Randy Yates poses with four Navy sailors





Two U.S. Navy sailors visit a class at the SDA School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The 4th grade class at SDA School has their picture taken with their new friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A sailor answers the question of a 5th grader.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Pre-Kindergarteners, 1st graders, and 2nd graders have fun on the playground with their new friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SDA School students give their visitors big hugs. сонтявител рното

Ancient stone money bank gets modern restroom

Mangyol Stone Money Cultural Site on the island of Yap is a popular sight for tourists to this remote island due to its unique cross-shaped design.

Set in lush surroundings with a collection of 71 large discs of the currency that is found nowhere else in the world, visitors come from all over the globe to see the stone money that Yap is famous for. Now, the Yap Visitors Bureau has added a new accommodation to this ancient site for visitors, a modern restroom.

Don Evans, YVB general manager, recently announced the construction of the small building and noted that "it's conveniently located in the parking area nearby, but outside the core zone where it's not a disturbance to the universal value of the site."

Located in Makiy village, Gagil municipality, the site is the most significant undisturbed money bank in Yap and is currently on Unesco's "tentative list" for consideration to become a Unesco World Heritage Site.

"We are striving to provide tourists to Yap with accommodations that will make their visit even more enjoyable," said Tom Tamangmow, YVB project development manager, who oversaw the design and construction of the new building. "Providing clean restrooms, running water and a dropdown change table for mothers with infants is one way of doing this."

The area consists of two stone money banks that cross in the middle. One extends south to north and is traditionally referred to as Bleyrach,

Build Exito recruitment enters 4th year at NMC

The Northern Marianas College, in collaboration with Portland State University, is announcing its fourth round of recruitment for students interested in participating in the Build Exito program.

The program is an undergraduate research training program funded by the National Institute of Health that trains students/scholars who are interested in doing scientific research in biomedical, bioengineering, behavioral, clinical, health, and social topics.

"We challenge our students to pursue their academic goals and interests through programs like Build Exito," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. like Build Exito can serve as a foundation for our students to practice skills related to their future careers/interests in scientific fields."

The goals of the program are to help engage scholars in finding solutions to today's major health problems and to give them an opportunity to have hands-on, paid research experience.

Participating scholars will have the opportunity to receive a stipend of over \$1,000 per month, receive faculty and peer mentoring, and attend Portland State University to earn a bachelor of science degree.

To be eligible to participate

"Opportunities in the program, applicants must meet be either U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or non-citizen nationals; be full-time undergraduate students at NMC; have at least three years remaining in their degree program (projected graduation date no earlier than spring 2020), and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.

> The application deadline is Feb. 14, 2018. Application information can be found on www.pdx.edu/exito/prospective-scholars

For further information about Build Exito, contact Charlotte Cepeda, NMC School of Education director, at charlotte.cepeda@marianas.edu. (NMC)



A new restroom facility for visitors has been installed near the ancient Mangyol Stone Bank site in Yap.

over from east to west and is referred to as Mangyol. Bleyrach is one of the seven original banks said to have

been designated by spirits in the pre-historic era. Mangyol is the last one constructed prior to the Spanish occupation in the 16th century. Historically,

both are commonly referred to as Mangyol. It is recommended that visitors go with a local guide. For more information, go to www.visityap.com. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPORALS DPW-18-RFP-002

TOPOGRAPHIC AND AS-BUILT SURVEY OF AS FALIPE **ROAD, PRECINCT III, FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN, SAIPAN**

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed **Proposals for Topographic and As-Built Survey of As Falipe Road, Precinct III, for Roads and** Drainage Improvement, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-305 of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after January 31, 2018 at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Conference 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office on February 16, 2018. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time February 23,

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:e

- 1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff 25%
- 2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects 35%
- Project Approach 25%
- Schedule of Completion 15%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW-18-RFP-002". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, <u>February 28, 2018</u>**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, February 28, 2018, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to <u>procurement@pticom.com</u>. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 28, 2018 - AND must be received no later than March 9, 2018. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion there from, shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

Peter P. Camacho Acting, Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan Director, Procurement & Supply



Legislative Bureau NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-18-003 PL-UNGRADED: \$17,456.92 per Annum

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

Position: Administrative Assistant Opening Date: January 29, 2018 Closing Date: February 19, 2018

Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Perform clerical, administrative and other office related functions, including answering telephone, receiving communications and disseminating same to appropriate recipients; preparing and sending fax transmittals; maintaining filing system; copying and distributing documents to members and legislative bureau staff; setting up appointments and schedules; travel arrangements for staff, timekeeping; initiating correspondence; update the CNMI Legislative website not limited to status tables, calendar, agenda, journals, and legislative documents and information; maintains the Legislature's website, run office errands and perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Possess two years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution with one year of legislative work experience; must have organizational skills and computer experience; proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel and MS Outlook; excellent communication skills – written and verbal: good research skills and attention to detail; ability to produce results within

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate and a police clearance must be attached to the application. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

10 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Take President Trump's immigration plan seriously

resident Donald Trump has done something that has eluded the Republican Party for nearly a decade: He has outlined the possibility of broad immigration reform.

Trump's immigration framework is far from perfect. But the fact that it is being criticized by the extreme wing of his party should be taken as a sign of hope that we may just have a basis for bipartisan discussion. For this reason, Democrats should treat the proposal with more seriousness (and less derision) than they have to date.

To be sure, there's plenty wrong with Trump's framework—his insistence on wasting \$25 billion for a wall system, in particular, and the veiled curbs on asylum. But in other ways the plan is an advance. For the Dreamers, anything less than a path to citizenship would be deeply unfair. And, in principle, it makes good economic sense, as Trump proposes, to replace the U.S. emphasis on family reunification with rules addressed to shortages of labor.

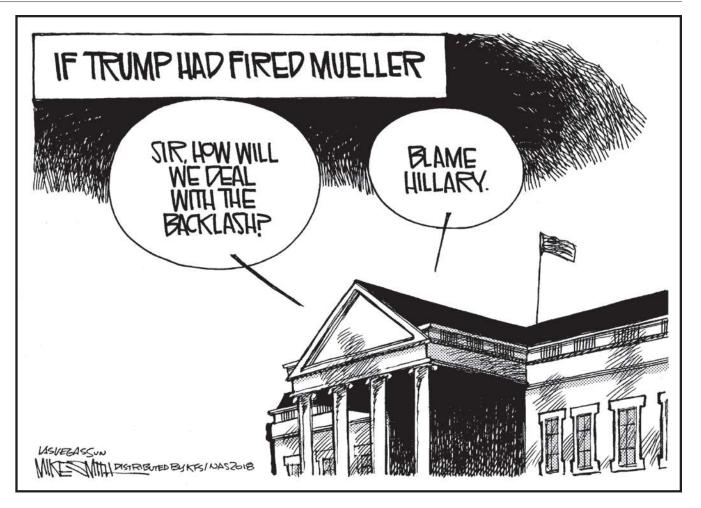
Trump's suggested limitations on family sponsorships echo the recommendations of earlier blue-ribbon commissions and aren't as harsh as they would have been before travel and telecommunications became more affordable. (A new skills-based system could also grant extra points to those with extended family relationships.) The end of the diversity-visa lottery program is overdue—unless, that is, you're a believer in citizenship bingo.

A crucial question, though, is how far these changes would affect immigration in the aggregate. It's one thing to tilt the balance away from family sponsorships to economic criteria, quite another to seek a system that clamps down on legal immigration as a whole—a woefully misguided strategy, especially at a time when American industries and businesses are hungry for qualified workers. The implications of the plan for overall immigration would depend on the numerical caps that the administration would go on to set and exactly how it would handle the backlog of almost 4 million family-sponsored visas.

The administration's intentions on this score are suspect. Nonetheless, starting from here, a good-faith bipartisan effort could resolve those issues.

It needs to be emphasized that in a half-decent world, the fate of the Dreamers wouldn't even be up for debate. Sadly, though, it has been. If a pragmatic consensus can be reached on a just resolution of that issue, together with new rules for legal immigration to provide the workers the country needs, it deserves to be embraced. Whether he intended it or not, Trump's proposal just might be a nudge in the right direction.

(c)2018 Bloomberg News



Benefisiun grasia

ai umasoda'yu' yan un' amku' sessu ha usa ayu na palabra i "grasia". Sige hu guadog haf' sustansiaña segun un' attikulun relihion. Poduñg gi tres kategoria: Fuetsan Saina-ta, linala'ta yan satbasion.

I Saina: Diariu, ta benefifisia todu nina' huyoñg i Saina desde

neñkanu`, trahe, kareta, yan otru siha bendision nesessidat ni mafattu ginen guiya. Huñgan ta fachochuchu`e lau hombre offisiota guiya prumebeniye.

Linala`ta: Gi kareran ha`anita man-mana`e hit offisiota para ta aligau mantension familia. Guaha `nai masuette hit hatsadan sueddu `nai mas hana`e fuetsa i familia mamahan nesessidatña. Lokue`, gi otru manera tat kumu peskan tasi mabendise biahita `nai mana` mehna kinine`ta para usuta.

Satbasion: Ta petsige asuntota sinparat. Ti todu tiempu felis pot guaha 'nai man-lotgun hit gi hoyun barañka na katasada. Ha sedi hit i Saina tiempu para ta ta'lun rumipasa ya tana' dinanche haf' ta petsisige pot satbasion. Bittun sinetsot yan inasi'i mañasaunau guine na ohas ha'anita.

Kuestion: Huñgan, mañgilisyanu hit. Megai umembrasa katolisismu—relihilion Katoliku. Guaha `nai in` hassu haf na difirensia relihion yan espirituat? Kau parehu sustansian i dos?

I relihion pot haf hineñgemu tat kumu relihion Katoliku. I espirituat gaige este gi haf relasion-mu yan i Saina diariu. I tatatte siempre sinsiyu na pinetsige umosge tinagu` i Saina. Diariu gasgas na pinetsige yan mangagau asi`i giya guiya pot ti un` hasñgun na linache. Guiya i luserun ha`ani-mu desde oga`an estake machum i atdau gi sanlagu.

Hinimidde: Gigon un' sedi kustumbren champada na un' hinatme, pues lamegai na deniskontentu yan chinatsaga para un' pinalo'pu dispues.

Hafa este na kustumbre? Gaige na todu i tiempu layu` hau pot suetten i otru `nai un` chachanda haf` na guiya ya ti hagu? Aplacha` na korason piot ya sessu unna` pinalo`pu ni manmala`et siha na palabra.

Maulegña un` diseha yan bendise suetten prohimu-mu. Siña dispues nina` chage hau ni suetteña. Na geftau hau mauleg na diniseha gi otru. Ti umahñau siempre lokue` u fattu suette-mu. Gineftau, pinasensia yan hinimidde!

Minaipe: Hafa kumilulog huyuñg siempre u fattu tatte. Kulan parehu yan che'chu' tailaye gi otru, siempre hagu gi uttimu pinalo'pu'. Finu mañaina minaipen tautau. Makat 'an hagu dispues binalutan nu ennau na matdision.

I otru ni mas na`mañau i minaipen animas `sino espiritu. Pot fabot muñga machansa sa` fotteña ke tinatiyen galagun gera. Desde hinassomu, deskansomu yan ha`animu kada ratu hau maestotba estake mangagau hau sinsiyu na petdon.

Guaguat: Huli`e antigu na areglun mañaina gi famaguon niha. Magahet na rektu piot gi bandan famaguon famalao`an. Un`

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



primahu mapoñga gi bateha yan kusina. Dispues, humalum gi kuattoña ya ha kandalu-gue` esta`i sigiente oga`an. Dios mihu!

I pumalu mangai tareha desde munagasgas halum yan hiyuñg guma, muñgayu, mamatinas neñkanu', yan otru siha che'chu' guma'. Naseguru na monhayan haf' tarehamu 'sino umatotpe hau yan kuatta pat korehas.

Giya hame, ayu mas taftaf i preparasion amotsan oga`an. Desde `las kuattru sige nina` lagu kosake siña in` falague che`chu` tanores gi gima` Yuus. Dispues de misa, in` planta i amotsa. Debi bai`n nagasgas todu antes de oran eskuela. Diariu.

Chaleg: 'Nai para umatai un' riku na amku' hana' ma-agañg i uniku lahiña para u presenta ni todu i guinahaña. Malagradesiyu na patgon lau mattu ha bisita si tataña gi hospitat.

Kontodu i hospitat inyun i amku` ni mahatsa gi fina` hogsu`. Todu siña un` li`e, punta pot punta, papa` esta i tasi. 'Nai kume agonias manhalum i mediku siha ya mapulan ñaihon. Muna`lu tatte hinagoñgña.

Ha atan i lahiña ya ilegña: "Todu i un` lili`e entalu` este, katan, luchan yan tatte, kontodu este na hospitat iyoghu para iyomu. Ennau i dies na lepblun bañku kada unu `nos kuantos miyon pesus gaige kumu salape`hu, para salape`mu".

Bastara ke pitbetsu i paire, hafa` tutuhu lago`ña lagu` kaiman ya ilegña, "Ya hafa tatahu siña bai choguiye hau antes de un` diñgu-yu`?"

Ineppe as tataña, "Na suha adeñg-mu gi hos oxygen sa` un` punu`vu`!" De dios!

Tuba: Teñga `an hu bisita mañainan mame giya Matansa hu dalalag i amku` para i lanchoña gi papa` hegsu` Kalabera. Sige man-rempesa gi oriyan tinanum dagu yan nika dispue hana` fañochu i babue. Mañgamyu` niyog para i manog.

Humanau dispues ya ha rikohe tuban mames gi `nos kuantos troñku. Ha ponche` yan sitbesa ya ha uñgag-gue`. Hana`e-yu` gimen-hu para bai chage. Antes de bai`n kaikai` ham para i gima` esta hu tutuhun umaronsada. Tihu tuñgu` na na`bulachu mames tuba. Ai chalelegña `an matombayu` gi fina` sakate.

See BENEFISIUN on Next Page

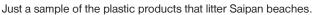
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR







Saipan beaches are not spared the scourge of plastics.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan has a plastic problem

I have had the incredible pleasure of visiting this lovely island for three weeks. The blues of the water, the palm trees, and the rocky coasts never fail to amaze me.

There has been something weighing heavy on my spirit while I have been here though...and that thing is plastic. Every single piece of plastic ever made still exists, and a lot of it has ended up in our oceans and on our beaches. Scientists predict that there could be more plastic in the ocean then fish by the year 2050 which to me, is a terrifying possibility.

I spent two hours picking up plastic on Marine Beach yesterday and have read about many volunteer cleanups that happen across the island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While cleanups are great, it actually hides the real problem: the production and use of plastic. Every restaurant I've been to on Saipan gives me a straw in my drink; every grocery store tries to give me a plastic bag. All of the carryout food I've seen here comes in styrofoam and plastic containers that will be used once and then thrown "away"—but "away" could easily end up in our oceans.

If we really want to clean up our oceans and beaches, we need to do away with single-use plastics. The alternatives exist—restaurants could provide metal straws and carryout containers could be made of biodegradable cardboard.

I am completely enamored by Saipan, and would love it even more if we could cut back on the plastic.

Lisa Ramsden

Washington, D.C.

Mail lost in limbo

I saw your news about the employee at the Chalan Kanoa post office who pleaded guilty, was fined, and sentenced to two years probation for stealing one package. That may be just the tip of the iceberg

I have lost two packages delivered to me in the last two years via the Chalan Kanoa post office. The CK post office has a corner-cutting "delivery" system to private mailbox (PMB) agents that is so loose that there is no proof (none provided, even to the customer) as to what happens to a package even after it is scanned as "delivered."

CK Postmaster Harry Wilcox has himself told me that his post office scans a package as "delivered, to agent" even when the agent who would pick it up is not present, so this actually means what they used to call "out for delivery." After that, the package may sit at the post office for hours, even until the next morning, when the agent comes (probably on a routine schedule) to pick up the day's packages. Then the agent is only required to sign once for the entire batch of packages, and then this signed record is not released to customers, even when they have a missing package. Even the PMB agent is not allowed to view these pick-up signatures, even to help a customer follow up on a missing package. In some cases, an agent for one PMB address has taken packages that were addressed to another PMB address, but again by that time the post office record shows it has apparently done its job, even though there is no tracking information as to who actually picked up the package (and the delivery time is probably inaccurate, since it may be scanned before the agent actually arrives). Since the tracking record indicates the package was "delivered," the USPS website does not honor insurance claims, and the local post office does not handle insurance claims anyway, so this is a very serious breach of trust.

In 2016, I ordered an iPad Mini, which I never received despite tracking showing that my item had arrived at the post office on Saipan and was "delivered, to agent." This tracking information makes it look like the agent is solely responsible for delivering the package to the addressee; however, the Chalan Kanoa post office will not provide proof that the proper agent (or any named person at all) was the person who picked up the package, instead of a different PMB agent or a post office employee. Neither the post office nor the USPS website compensated me for the missing package (valued at over \$600), not even honoring the \$50 automatic insurance for Priority Mail packages. EBay also denied my claim, as the package appeared (online) to be delivered and therefore the seller had done his job. Fortunately in that case, PayPal gave me a courtesy reimbursement for the full cost of the item, only requiring that I file a report on the FBI website. But the iPad Mini that I had ordered had gone somewhere on Saipan!

Last summer, I was in the States and sent some packages to myself to pick up after returning to Saipan. Later I received all but one of the packages, and it was the same problem as the year before. The value of the contents in that package was only \$50, but since the tracking record showed the package was «delivered,» I knew the USPS website wouldn>t honor my claim. When I tried to file a claim anyway, the webpage timed out, which is very frustrating, and the claim period expired, as well. This time there was no other party that I could contact to seek compensation. The one offer CK Postmaster Harry Wilcox made to me was that he would help me appeal a claim denial, but I couldn>t even get to that point, and I was disillusioned that he would fix the broken system at his own post office. He also suggested that I open a P.O. box (at the post office instead of a PMB), but doing that would not solve the problem at hand—for the past or future—plus there's a waiting list (and using the post office is more time-consuming and stressful).

BENEFISIUN

From Page 10

Katdu: Pinegsai ga'ga' gi lanchu pat tatten guma' mauleg na mantension gi tiempun eskases. Libianu un` usa para amotsa pat senan familia piot i manog. Dos na poya sopbla paire na katdun manog fresku.

I pinegsai babue lokue' mauleg na totchen familia. Desde flitada, estufau yan katdun to`lañg ha kubre nesessidat-ta fina` totche. Mangai pinegsai ham antes gi lanchu fuera de tinanum 'aggun natibu yan fina` golai. Mauleg na katsu entalu` pinegsai yan tinanum.

Gualu`: Megai gi man-cha-idathu chumage che`chu` gualu`. Makat pot bula usun kodu desde manyabau, mandismonta, manhale', yan mañguha. Mauleg na masahalum para un' yute' antes

The local post office does not take full responsibility even for packages that disappear within its own walls. It has a system that leaves PMB agents vulnerable to suspicion and scapegoating while protecting itself from USPS headquarters. Disappearance of packages without compensation lowers the credibility of the USPS, but federal laws prevent private couriers from providing similar services at competitive prices.

The above is not an opinion; it is information that is either publicly verifiable or honestly reported from my personal experience.

Winston Posegate

Chalan Piao, Saipan

P.S.: I'd like to add that Postmaster Harry Willcox told me on the phone last year that the success rate (at the CK post office) was 98 percent. That rate has also been my experience in the last few years. However, frequently or infrequently, mail is lost or stolen on Saipan and the post office has to get its act together and take responsibility. They must have and make available the records to prove who is or is not responsible. The local post office must have a system consistent with federal USPS standards that maintains the trust of the public. As it is right now, the postmaster himself told me they cannot prove or disprove whether a postal employee or a PMB agent took a missing package.

de oran deskansu. Magahet na kontodu halum te`lañghu manyafai gi uttimun ha`ane.

Sumen namagof 'an felis tinanum 'aggun tat kumu choda, sune, kamute, dagu yan golai siha. Gi mattiempu sumen chadeg i troñkun choda poduñg. Ayu mansuette i tinanum ni mangaige gi papa' odda' tat kumu sune yan kamute.

Hinemlu': I usun niyog appruebau na mauleg para hinemlu' tautau. Ti parehu mantikaña yan taiguihe i ga`ga` tat kumu guaka yan babue. Chenot hamalefa (dementia) gi 'nai man-amku' hit prinibeni yan otru siha chinatsaga.

Poresu na tafan a'ayuda pumunu' ga'ga' niyog ni humatme hit guine gi alacha. Mientras tantus, nasetbe i niyog gi sentadan familia sa' sumen mauleg para hinemlo'ta. Usun niyog gi guihan, katnen manog, babue yan guaka, paire para i tatautau-ta.

12 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN



▲88° ▼78°

Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.

East winds 20 to 25 mph 88° **▼78°**



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers **▲** 87° **▼77**° Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▼77° **▲ 87°**

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

▲ 88°

▼77°



PICTURE TIME: 1:56 PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

There is quite a bit of nearby cloudiness, but not many showers as a weak shear line is to the north, but overall the dry weather regime continues and will likely continue for at least the next week. The shear line coupled with strong high pressure to the north will bring an increase in wind and there will be a slight increase in showers over the next couple of days. Strong high pressure to the north is moving eastward and gradually weakening. As it does, the flow will become more easterly. The large north swell will begin to subside over the next day or two and easterly swell will being to build through midweek and beyond.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Showers	83° / 79°

Majuro	Showers	83° / 79°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	≜ ▼°F
Auckland	Rain	75° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 16°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	78° / 71°
London	Showers	48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 54°
Manila	Showers	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 55°
Miami	Cloudy	69° / 65°
New York	Mostly Sunny	34° / 30°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	46° / 36°
Paris	Showers	52° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	45° / 28°
Rome	Showers	57° / 50°
Salem	Sunny	56° / 35°
San Francisco	Foggy	56° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	36° / 18°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	45° / 34°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	40° / 34°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
1:19 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.67
8:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.05
1:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.09
6:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.13

SUNRISE	SUNSET
6:46 AM	6:14 PM
6:46 AM	6:15 PM
6:45 AM	6:15 PM
6:45 AM	6:15 PM
6:45 AM	6:16 PM
	6:46 AM 6:46 AM 6:45 AM 6:45 AM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:08 am	5:57 pm
Thursday	-	7:05 am	7:01 pm
Friday	-	7:58 am	8:01 pm
Saturday	-	8:47 am	8:59 pm
Sunday	-	9:33 am	9:54 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)									
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily						
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily						
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota						
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6						
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily						
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily						

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

1:30pm 2:05pm UA6391 1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) 7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7 7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) 2:00am 6:05am TW308 Daily 07626 2:10am 6:00am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 0Z626 2:50am 6:40am LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7 7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily 7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) ID396 7:30am 12:00pm 4:50pm 10:00pm JD396

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) 0Z626/701 2:10am 10:55am 1 via ICN 0Z626/701 2:50am 10:55am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA6394/191 4:15am 9:00am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM UA6394/PR111 7 via GUM 4:15am 8:10am UA6394/PR111 4:15am 9:20am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:40pm 2, 5 via GUM 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA6398/183 6:05pm 11:50pm UA6398/193 2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) HX077 1:50am 5:15am 0Z626/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN 0Z626/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 1, 3, 5, 7 U043 5:45am 8:40am 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/159 6:05pm 11:00pm

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA6390 2, 3, 6 via Rota 12:10pm 1:50pm UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN 1:15pm 1:50pm UA6390 2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN 7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4 7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN 9:30am 3:00pm 7C3402 Daily 07625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily 0Z625 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 8:20pm 11651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN ID395 8:25am 3:30nm JD395 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1,5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 4:25pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN 12:40am 8:05am 3, 6 via GUM UA182/6395 UA190/6397 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM 0Z702/625 12:25pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN 12:25pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 1:40am+1 07702/625 PR110/UA6395 10:05pm 8:05am+1 Daily via GUM UA192/6395 10:30pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via ROR-GUM UA184/6395 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN 0Z722/625 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN 0Z722/625 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN HX076 12:15am+1 3, 7 5:15pm U042 1:45am+16:50pm U042 9:30pm 4:25am+12, 4, 6 UA116/6395 11:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAD MADIANAS AID INC

		5	TAR MARIA	NAS AIR	, INC.		
SAIPAN T	O ROTA			1204 1205	10:00AM 11:00AM	10:15AM 11:15AM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO	SAIPAN			1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO	O SAIPAN		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO	GUAM			2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO		12.101 111	Buny	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN T	O TINIAN			2109 2110	2:30PM 3:30PM	2:45PM 3:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2110	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		0.001 1/1	0. 101 W	- Sunj
			,				

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 13 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

State Level Spelling Bee

Photos by KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The competitors are introduced last Saturday at the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



A total of five individuals served as judges at the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee at the Pedro P. Tenorio



Spelling bee competitor No. 28 waits for the word that she will spell at the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



Dozens of parents and family members watch intently as competitors blow through the competition during the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The two final competitors battle for 25 rounds during the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose



Latisha Anne De Jesus, far left, is named the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee champion last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center after 42 rounds.



The spelling bee competitors await their words to spell at the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



Coaches, principals, and vice principals of the spelling bee champions pose for a photo with their students during the 2018 State-Level Spelling Bee at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

14 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MCS Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony



Every January, Mount Carmel School celebrates the hard work and dedication of all teachers and staff at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium in Chalan Kanoa.



The 2017 MCS Teacher of the Year awardee, Heijin Lee, was present to show support to the 2018 Teacher of the Year awardee at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony yesterday at the MCS Gymna-



Mount Carmel School students perform songs to show their appreciation to MCS faculty and staff at the Appreciation Ceremony held yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium in Chalan Kanoa.



Mount Carmel School students ranging from Kindergarten to middle school cheer their teachers at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium in Chalan Kanoa.



Mount Carmel School 2018 Teacher of the Year awardee Zenzhu "Miss Pearl" Jin, fifth from left, is flanked by other MCS faculty. From left, MCS school counselor Tobed Smith, MCS business manager Julia Villafuerte, MCS IT director J.C. Clark, MCS parent council president Louie Camacho, Zenzhu Jin, MCS principal Frances Taimanao, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, and MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony held yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium.



Mount Carmel School teachers played fun games at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium in Chalan Kanoa.



From left, Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, school principal Frances Taimanao, MCS Parent Council president Louise Camacho, MCS IT director J.C. Clark, and MCS Institutional Development director John Blanco at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium in Chalan Kanoa.



The MCS 2018 Staff of the Year award is presented to Priscilla T. Dela Cruz at the 2018 Faculty & Staff Appreciation Ceremony yesterday at the MCS Gymnasium in Chalan Kanoa.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 15 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Republicans vote to release classified memo on Russia probe

WASHINGTON Brushing aside opposition from the Justice Department, Republicans on the House intelligence committee voted to release a classified memo that purports to show improper use of surveillance by the FBI and the Justice Department in the Russia investigation.

The four-page memo has become a political flashpoint, with President Donald Trump and many Republicans pushing for its release and suggesting that some in the Justice Department and FBI have conspired against the president.

The memo was written by Republicans on the committee, led by chairman Rep. Devin Nunes of California, a close Trump ally who has become a fierce critic of the FBI and the Justice Department. Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign was involved.

Republicans have said the memo reveals grave concerns about abuses of the government surveillance powers in the Russia investigation. Democrats have called it a selectively edited group of GOP talking points that attempt to distract from the committee's own investigation into Russian meddling.

The vote on Monday to release the memo is an unprecedented move by the committee, which typically goes out of its way to protect classified information in the interest of



Rep. Adam Schiff, D- Calif., ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, speaks to members of the media, Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

protecting intelligence sources and methods. The memo was delivered by courier to the White House on Monday evening. Trump now has five days to object to its release by the committee.

The White House said late Monday that the president will meet with his national security

team and White House counsel to discuss the memo in the coming days.

Republicans said they are confident that the release won't harm national security. They also said they would not release the underlying intelligence that informed the memo.

"You'll see for yourself that it's not necessary," said Texas

Rep. Mike Conaway of Texas, who's leading the House's Russia investigation. But Rep. Adam Schiff of

California, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said the noting that the memo's release

panel had "crossed a deeply regrettable line."

"Today this committee voted to put the president's personal interests, perhaps their own political interest, above the national interest," he said, could compromise intelligence sources and methods.

While Trump's White House signaled he would likely support the Republican memo's release, his Justice Department has voiced concerns

In a letter to Nunes last week, Justice officials said releasing the classified memo could be "extraordinarily reckless" and asked to review it. Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd suggested that releasing classified information could damage the United States' relationship with other countries with which it shares intelligence.

After those complaints, FBI Director Christopher Wray reviewed the memo over the

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who was with Wray when he reviewed the memo, said the FBI director did not raise any national security concerns with him. Gowdy said the memo doesn't reveal any intelligence methods but it does reveal "one source."

But Schiff said that Wray told him Monday that the review didn't satisfy his concerns about the release of the memo. Wray wanted to brief the committee about FBI and Justice Department concerns ahead of any release, a request committee Republicans blocked, Schiff said.

The FBI did not respond to a request for comment Monday evening.

FBI's McCabe, a frequent Trump target, abruptly leaves post

WASHINGTON (AP)—FBI Deputy Director Andrew Mc-Cabe, a target of frequent and aggressive criticism by President Donald Trump, abruptly stepped down from his position Monday ahead of his planned retirement this spring.

A 22-year veteran of the FBI, McCabe has been publicly and repeatedly lambasted over the past year by Trump, who has accused him of bias because of his wife's political connections and an FBI investigation that produced no criminal charges against Hillary Clinton.

McCabe, who has held a number of FBI leadership roles and been heavily involved in investigations into major crimes including the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, becomes eligible for retirement in a matter of weeks. FBI staff learned Monday that McCabe was leaving the bureau's No. 2 post effective immediately, according to people who spoke only on condition of anonymity to discuss an internal personnel move. He is expected to retire with full pension benefits.

The departure comes as FBI Director Christopher Wray makes changes to his senior leadership team, replacing two other top aides last week. Such changes are not unusual when a new director takes charge, but they are notable amid Trump's public pressure on Wray to get rid of officials who were confidents of James Comey, whom he fired as FBI director last May.

In a message Monday to FBI employees, Wray said McCabe would be retiring on March 18 and denied that the move stemmed from political pressure.

"I will not be swayed by political or other pressure in my decision-making," Wray wrote.

The exit comes amid multiple ongoing investigations, including a Justice Department watchdog probe into the actions of McCabe and other top FBI officials during the Clinton email probe. In addition, special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating whether the Trump campaign improperly coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential election and whether Trump sought to obstruct the inquiry by, among other actions, firing Comey.

McCabe has been repeatedly assailed by Trump since the fall of 2016, when it was revealed that his wife had accepted campaign contributions from the political action committee of then-Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat and close Clinton ally, during a failed state Senate run. That episode is among the decisions under review by the Justice Department's inspector general, which is expected to complete its report soon.

School: Child who punched teacher was restrained once before MIAMI (AP)—School district officials in Florida said they followed standard protocol last week when a 7-year-old boy was placed in handcuffs and removed from his school—and they say it was the second time since the school year began that the first-grader had to be restrained following aggres-

sive behavior.

The latest episode occurred Thursday, when a teacher at the Coral Way K-8 Center in Miami told the boy to stop playing with his food in the cafeteria. When the child refused to stop, he was taken from the cafeteria, according to an incident report from Miami-Dade County Public Schools police officer Munick Soriano.

The report said the boy hit the teacher repeatedly in the back when they were in a hallway outside the cafeteria. The child continued punching and kicking the teacher until they both fell on the ground, according to the report, which also said he grabbed her hair.

The boy was hospitalized briefly at Miami Children's Hospital under the Florida Mental Health Act, based on behavioral criteria that indicated he could pose a threat to himself or others, school district officials said. Authorities later said it was the second time officers had resorted to handcuffing the student under the same law.

The child's mother, Mercy Alvarez, said her son doesn't have a mental disorder. Instead, she called what happened to her son "police abuse.

"If my child wasn't aggressive anymore when we got there, like they were saying he was before, why take such extreme measures?" she said.

Alvarez said her child didn't show aggressive behavior at home until the school year started; she said in past years he had gotten good grades, participated in other activities and behaved well.

"This is too much for a boy that age to go through. It can't be a normal procedure," she said.

Alvarez recorded the incident last week with her cellphone and shared it on Facebook, where it has been viewed nearly 3 million times.

In his report, Soriano wrote that another teacher and several students witnessed the incident, which was also captured on the school's surveillance camera. The boy's parents were notified and came to the school, the report said.

The child's father agreed with school officials that the child should be taken to a mental health facility, the report said. But the mother disagreed, telling officials nothing was wrong with her son. Alvarez said the officer was threatening to take the child to jail if they didn't agree to have him taken to a mental health facility for an evaluation.

The teacher told the officer her back was hurting after the incident but she didn't have any visible injuries. She told officials she intends to press charges, the report said.

16 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia Significant ash falls near erupting PH volcano Me Moter law flows down the slopes of Mayon role can outing last mild rugs lion as son from Logical oity, May growney, Jun. 902, 2018.

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP)—A significant amount of ash has fallen on towns near the Philippines' most active volcano after energetic eruptions of lava from the crater.

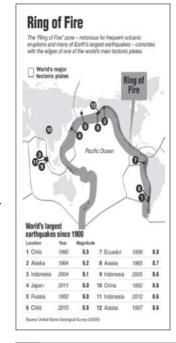
Mount Mayon in northeastern Albay province has been erupting more than two weeks, and 84,000 people who fled the danger zone are staying in schools and other crowded shelters.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said one large lava eruption lasted more than an hour and a half late Monday. The ash plume reached 1.5 kilometers (.9 miles) above the crater and caused significant ashfall in the towns of Camalig and Guinobatan.

Mayon has been belching red-hot lava fountains, huge columns of ash and molten rocks into the sky and plunging communities into darkness with falling ash since Jan. 14. It has remained at alert level four on a scale of five, indicating a more violent eruption could be imminent.

Scientists have warned that despite the repeated eruptions of lava, Mayon is still swollen with magma below the surface and could erupt explosively.

No injuries have been reported in the current eruption, but authorities have struggled to keep people out of the danger zone 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the crater. They are worried the eruption may



last months, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of people in Mayon's shadow.

Provincial leaders say disaster funds are running low and have said supplies like facemasks will be depleted if the

eruption lasts.

The government has raised the possibility of creating a permanent "no man's land" around Mayon, a sensitive and complicated proposal that would affect tens and thousands of people

living in the fertile farmlands nearby. One possibility is expanding a national park around the base of the volcano, where trees could grow and become a buffer against volcanic flows endangering villages and towns. Mayon has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently. In 2013, an ash eruption killed five climbers who had ventured near the summit despite warnings.

IS attack on military academy in Afghan capital kills 11

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Islamic State militants attacked Afghan soldiers guarding a military academy in the capital on Monday, killing at least 11 troops and wounding 16.

The attack, which began before dawn and continued well past daybreak, was the latest in a wave of relentless violence in Kabul this month unleashed by the Taliban and the rival Islamic State group that has killed scores and left hundreds wounded.

President Donald Trump condemned the recent spate of violence, saying "innocent people are being killed left and right," including children. After previously expressing support for Afghan efforts to reach a political settlement with the insur-

gent group, Trump said "there's no talking to the Taliban."

Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said a suicide bomber struck the military unit guarding the academy, setting off a gunbattle. Two of the attackers were killed in the gunbattle, two detonated their suicide vests and one was arrested by the troops, he said.

Waziri confirmed that 11

soldiers were killed. He said "the attack was against an army unit providing security for the academy and not the academy itself."

The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, which calls itself Khorasan Province, claimed the attack in a statement carried by its Aamaq news agency, saying its fighters targeted the academy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani court convicts 2 Chinese nationals of ATM fraud KARACHI, Pakistan

(AP)—A Pakistani court has convicted two Chinese nationals for tampering with an ATM machine, sentencing each of them to a year in prison and a fine of around \$400. Akbar Khan, a cybercrimes investigator, said Monday that Zhong Xiaming and Zhong Xianquan were arrested a year ago while attaching a skimming device to an ATM in Karachi. The devices are placed over ATM slots and scan the magnetic strips of cards when customers insert them. They

are often used in conjunction with hidden cameras that can film PIN numbers. Khan says cybercrimes investigators have arrested another six Chinese nationals in recent months who are alleged to have used skimming devices. Similar incidents were reported in other Pakistani cities.

Malaysia, Japan coast guards hail anti-piracy exercise

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's maritime agency and Japan's coast guard on Monday hailed a weeklong joint exercise focusing on combating piracy at sea

as well as search and rescue operations. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said in a statement that about 200 of its officials were involved in the exercise which started Jan. 24 at the northeastern port of Kuantan. It said the Japanese Coast Guard sent its patrol vessel Tsugaru and 60 crew members. The agency said two of its vessels were involved in the exercise, including KM Pekan, one of two patrol boats given to Malaysia by Japan. The agency said this was the third such exercise in five years to help build capacity because "robbery at sea and cross-border maritime

crime remain a significant threat" in Malaysia's maritime zone. It said the exercises included scenarios on handling the threat of robbery at sea, search and rescue operations and training crew to land a helicopter on the vessel.

Chinese military plane crashes during training exercise

BEIJING (AP)—China's air force said a military plane crashed Monday during training in the southwestern province of Guizhou. The People's Liberation Army Air Force said in a brief post on its official account on the social media site

Sina Weibo that authorities were sparing no effort in search and rescue operations. It did not say what kind of plane was involved or if there were casualties. The Beijing News said the plane went down in the county of Suiyang. It cited the local government as confirming the location of the crash but had no further details. An official who answered the phone at the Suiyang government offices said he knew nothing about the crash and referred questions to the government's propaganda departments, where calls went unanswered. Police in Suiyang repeatedly hung up the phone when reached.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 **17**

World

Floods peak in Paris as France sees worst rains in 50 years

PARIS (AP)—Floodwaters peaked in Paris on Monday and were threatening towns downstream as the rain-engorged Seine River winds through Normandy toward the English Channel.

Rivers swollen by France's heaviest rains in 50 years have engulfed romantic quays in Paris, swallowed up gardens and roads, halted riverboat cruises—and raised concerns about climate change.

The Meteo France weather service said January has seen nearly double normal rainfall nationwide, and the rains in the past two months are the highest measured for the period in 50 years.

"I'm amazed. I've come to Paris since 1965, most years, and I've never seen the Seine as high," said Terry Friberg, visiting from Boston. "I love Paris with all my heart but I'm very worried about the level of the river."

Flood monitoring agency Vigicrues said the water levels in Paris hit a maximum height of 5.84 meters (19 feet, 2 inches) on the Austerlitz scale early Monday.

That's below initial fears last week, and well below record levels of 8.62 meters in 1910, but still several meters above normal levels of about 1.5 me-

ters on the Austerlitz scale.

And the waters are expected to stay unusually high for days or weeks.

That's bad news for tourists hoping to cruise past Paris sites on the famed "bateaux mouches" riverboats, or visit the bottom floor of the Louvre Museum, closed since last week as a precaution. Riverside train stations along the line that serves Versailles are also closed, and will remain that way for several more days.

Water laps the underside of

historic bridges, and treetops and lampposts poke out of the brown, swirling Seine.

South African tourist Michael Jelatis, visiting Notre Dame Cathedral on an island in central Paris, was among many people linking the floods to global warming, blamed for increasing instances of extreme weather.

"Around the world we're all aware that things like this, unusual weather, are happening. I mean back home we are in a serious drought at the moment as well," he told The Associated Press.

Overall, Paris is better prepared than when it was last hit by heavy flooding in 2016, and Parisians have largely taken disruptions in stride this time.

Other towns on the surging Seine have seen it much worse.

The floods have caused damage in 242 towns along the river and tributaries already and more warnings are in place as the high waters move downstream.

US conservationist, Chile sign creation of national parks

PARQUE PATAGO-NIA, Chile (AP)—Chilean President Michelle Bachelet signed decrees Monday creating vast new national parks using lands donated by a U.S. conservation organization in what is believed to be the largest private donation of land ever from a private entity to a country.

The agreement was signed by Bachelet and Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, the widow of Doug Tompkins, a founder of the North Face outdoor wear company who accumulated the land before his death.

It will create the new Pumalin and Patagonia national parks while expanding others to help create a "Route of Parks." The string of 17 parks will span more than 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) across the South American nation, stretching from Puerto Montt to Cape Horn.

In all, the plan ultimately seeks to increase Chile's national parkland by more than 15,600 square miles (40,400 square kilometers). Bachelet said that would expand national parklands in Chile by 38.5 percent.

"This is not only an unprecedented preservation effort," Bachelet said at a ceremony surrounded by pristine lands.

"It's also an invitation to imagine other ways of rationally occupying our lands, of creating other economic activities, of using natural resources without preying on them. In other words, it's about generating sustainable development."

Syria violence overshadows Russia-hosted talks

KILIS, Turkey (AP)—Intense clashes erupted Monday on a strategic hilltop in northwestern Syria as Kurdish forces tried to enter the area a day after it was captured by Turkish troops.

Turkish military officials cancelled a government-organized press tour to Bursayah Hill, separating the Kurdishheld enclave of Afrin from the Turkey-controlled town of Azaz, due to what they described as "security concerns."

Separately, in the nearby rebel-held province of Idlib, suspected Syrian government airstrikes killed at least 21 people and put a hospital out of order.

The violence has overshadowed a peace conference hosted by Russia that was due to open in Sochi on Monday. Russia, a key ally of President Bashar Assad, says it invited 1,600 representatives to the Syrian Congress of National Dialogue, but so far only the government and opposition representatives tolerated by it have shown up. The main Syrian opposition body has boycotted the talks.

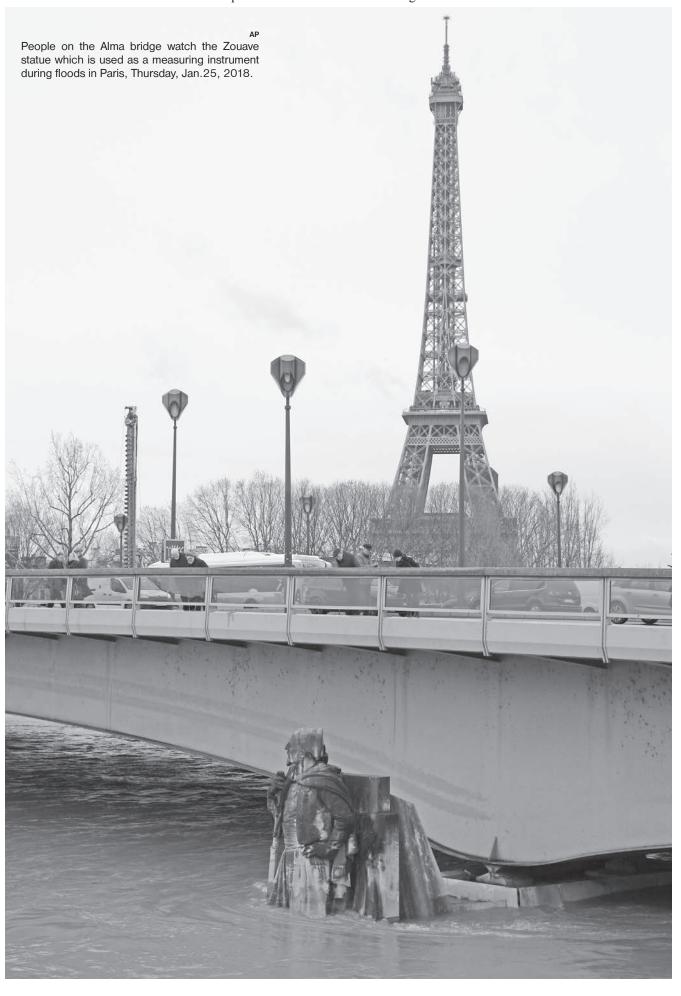
The main Syrian Kurdish

militia, which is fighting in Afrin and controls some 25 percent of Syrian territory, has also declined to attend, saying it holds Russia responsible for the Turkish offensive.

Alexander Lavrentiev, Russia's envoy for Syria, downplayed the violence, saying the situation in Afrin has "somehow stabilized" and expressing hope that "potential provocations prior to and during the event won't affect its outcome."

"We still hope that common sense will prevail and that the leadership of the united Syrian opposition will still decide to attend the congress. This possibility has not been ruled out, and the invitations remain on the table," he said, according to Russian state agency Tass.

The Turkish incursion began on Jan. 20, with Ankara saying it seeks to drive "terrorists" away from its border and create a safe zone in the area. Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish militia in control of Afrin, the People's Defense Units or YPG, an extension of the Kurdish insurgency within its borders.



18 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Focus

By JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Guns drawn, Iranian intelligence agents rushed into the apartment of a Washington Post reporter and his journalist wife in Tehran.

Threatening to kill Jason Rezaian in front of his wife, Yeganeh, the 20 agents in the July 2014 raid tore through their belongings and rifled through drawers, clothes and valuables for an hour.

But perhaps their most eagerly sought target wasn't exactly inside the house: They forced the couple to hand over the passwords to their email and social media profiles.

That raid demonstrated how much of a threat Iran's theocratic government sees in the internet. It has long sought to strictly control cyberspace and social media—and, thereby, the flow of information to the public.

But the Islamic Republic's relationship with the world wide web is far more complicated than simple repression. Over the past four years, authorities have encouraged wider use of the internet among Iranians, hoping to generate the benefits of a more modern economy. As a result. nearly half the population has in its pockets a tool that the state is struggling to constrain: smartphones, with cameras and internet links that let anyone broadcast to the world.

Those smartphones helped spread the startling burst of protests across Iran that opened 2018. The government succeeded in suffocating the flare-up in part by shutting off key social media and messaging apps, but the lesson was clear: The same oxygen that can resuscitate commerce can also give breath to potential revolt.

Authorities' solution has been to create a so-called "halal net," Iran's own locally controlled version of the internet aimed at restricting what the public can see.

As Iran approaches the 40th anniversary of the revolution that brought its cleric-led rule to power, how it handles the power of cyberspace will be crucial to its future, determining whether it moves to greater openness or seals itself off from the world.

"The Islamic Republic is not black and white. It shows a myriad of contradictions and its internet policy ... is one of the great examples of those contradictions," said Sanam Vakil, an associate fellow at Chatham House who studies Iran. "The government has taken the internet and effectively used it for its own purposes and also has realized the dangers of it as well."

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, how information spreads across mass media has been tightly controlled.

'Halal' internet means more control in Iran after unrest



All television and radio broadcasts within Iran are from state-run stations. Satellite dishes remain ostensibly illegal, though they are plentiful, drawing occasional attacks from bat-wielding government enforcers. Journalists face restrictions in what they can cover and where they can travel across a country of 80 million people that's nearly two-and-a-half times the size of Texas.

The internet helped collapse that distance. During Iran's 2009 protests surrounding the disputed re-election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, still nascent social media spread word of the events among Iranians and brought videos of the shooting death of 26-year-old Neda Agha Soltan to the world.

Iran's government, overseen by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, violently suppressed the demonstrations. The crackdown killed dozens and saw thousands imprisoned, with some tortured by their jailers.

Even before the 2009 protests, Iran blocked access to YouTube. Twitter and Facebook followed amid the unrest, as did many other sites later. Some in Iran began using virtual private networks, or VPNs, which allow users to bypass government censorship.

The chief difference between then and the protests that rocked the country coming into 2018 was the massive proliferation of smartphones. As recently as 2014, only an estimated 2 million Iranians possessed one. Today, estimates suggest Iranians own 48 million.

That explosive growth was spurred by the administration of President Hasan Rouhani, a cleric who is a relative moderate within Iran's system. His officials allowed more mobile phone service providers to offer 3G and 4G internet, suddenly making sharing photos and images possible. Home internet connections became

faster. The encrypted messaging platform Telegram spread like wildfire. Over 40 million Iranians are estimated to use it, for everything from benign conversations to commerce and political campaigning.

In the recent unrest, protesters used Telegram's massmessaging channels to share information and videos across 75 cities and towns where demonstrations erupted. Some showed people openly in the streets shouting, "Death to Khamenei!" It shocked many, especially as such cries could bring a death sentence.

When the government temporarily blocked Telegram as well as Instagram, it helped smother the protests within days. Notably, however, Telegram's silencing quickly brought complaints from businesspeople who use its channels to promote and sell their goods.

Even after the unrest, Rouhani argued it was futile trying to shut off an indispensable tool of modern life.

"If you want cyberspace to be useful to the community, come forward with a solution using it to promote the culture instead of blocking it," he said, noting that past Iranian government tried to stop people from listening to the radio "but this prevention was useless."

The danger—and potential—of the internet as a weapon came into focus for Iran when it faced the world's first cyberweapon almost a decade ago.

At the height of tensions between Tehran and the West over its nuclear program, thousands of centrifuges enriching uranium at Iran's underground Natanz facility suddenly began spinning themselves to death. They had been hit by the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be an American and Israeli creation.

Material leaked by Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor who exposed U.S. government surveillance programs in 2013, suggested Iran at the time was the country where American spies collected the most electronic data.

Beginning in 2011, Iran worked to strike back.

Among the most spectacular cyberattacks attributed to Iran is Shamoon, a virus that hit the state-run giant Saudi Arabian Oil Co. and Qatari natural gas producer RasGas, deleting hard drives and displaying a picture of a burning American flag on computer screens. Saudi Aramco ultimately shut down its network and destroyed over 30,000 computers. A later iteration of Shamoon in late 2016 caused even more damage.

The U.S. blames Iranian hackers for a denial-of-service attack that overwhelmed six major American banks in 2012. U.S. prosecutors in 2016 accused hackers believed to be backed by Iran of attacking dozens of banks and a small dam near New York City. They also have been suspected of targeting the email and social media accounts of Obama administration officials.

Analysts and security experts believe many of these hackers likely receive backing from Iran's Revolutionary Guard, a powerful paramilitary and economic force in the country answerable only to Khamenei himself.

The Guard employs more direct means as well, like its wresting away of the passwords of Rezaian and his wife, recounted in a lawsuit he filed against the Guard and Iran in U.S. federal court.

Similarly, it seized control of the Facebook and email accounts of Iranian-American dual national Siamak Namazi, who remains detained in Iran along with his octogenarian father Baquer. The Guard then pretended to be Namazi in correspondence with U.S. government officials and others, like

New Yorker journalist Robin Wright, tricking them into opening a file that gave the hackers access to their computers.

Cyberespionage is even used in Iran's internal rivalries, with attacks on members of the government, particularly officials in Rouhani's Foreign Ministry, including Zarif, according to a recent report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"The targeting of members of government—individuals that have already been vetted by the regime—reflects the importance of cybersurveillance as a tool of the hard-line security establishment to monitor potential rivals for power," the report said.

Then Iran moved to target the internet itself.

The idea of Iran setting up its own "halal," or "permissible," internet first came in 2011 in the wake of the 2009 protests. It's evolved into what's known as the National Information Network.

It is essentially a net neutrality supporter's nightmare: The network has some 500 government-approved national websites that stream content far faster than those based abroad, which are intentionally slowed, according to a recent report by the Campaign for Human Rights in Iran. Service providers offer cheaper packages to customers accessing only the NIN websites. Search results also are gamed within the network, allowing the government to censor what users find.

One of the principal designers of the network is the Iran Telecommunications Co., owned by proxies of the Guard.

It resembles in a way China's "Great Firewall," which blocks access to thousands of websites, from Facebook to Twitter to some news outlets. Chinese internet users also find access to websites outside of the country slower.

"Iran's National Information Network may lack the name cachet of the 'Great Firewall,' but its performance in strangling access to opposition content during the most recent protests proved that Iran is hard on China's heels in terms of controlling the flow of information," the private U.S. intelligence firm Stratfor wrote in a Jan. 17 analysis.

Firuzeh Mahmoudi, the executive director of the San Francisco-based group United for Iran, said authorities have had success in getting businesses to operate on the NIN. The more they do so, he warned, "the easier it will be for them to shut down or throttle the real internet when they want to."

Hard-liners have suggested removing Iran entirely from the internet and creating its own at home.

"Cyberspace was the kindling in the fire of the battle," hard-line cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami recently told worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran. "When cyberspace was closed down, the sedition was stopped. The nation does not support a social network that has its key in the hands of the United States."

Amid the protests, the Trump administration said it wanted to help Iranians access the internet. The U.S. Treasury sanctioned the Guard, Iran's Supreme Council of Cyberspace and other officials for "engaging in censorship."

Top Trump administration officials have met with Google, Facebook, Twitter and other leading tech companies to ask what more they can do to help people in Iran and other authoritarian-run countries communicate freely, according to U.S. officials briefed on the meetings.

But fear of crossing U.S. sanctions has made companies skittish. Some firms don't allow their services to be used in Iran. That prevents Iranians from accessing many encrypted communication apps or VPNs.

Even when the Trump administration has floated the possibility of easing some sanctions or offering carve-outs, some tech companies have been reluctant to offer more services in Iran, said the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss the conversations and demanded anonymity.

So it remains in question whether Iranians will have access to an open internet if anger over the economy boils over into protests again, as many predict it will.

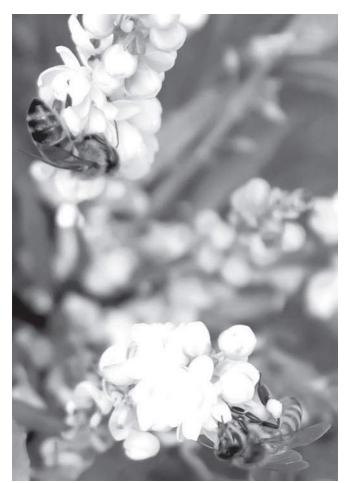
"We believe that the U.S. government could do more to enable the free flow of information in Iran and establish a thriving entrepreneurial civil society independent of the regime," said Morad Ghorban of the Washington-based Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans. "This movement has continued despite persecution by hard-line elements."

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Good Housekeeping







The Soft Caress mahonia is excellent for winter pollinators.



The Soft Caress mahonia magically blooms in December to January bringing out honeybees

Soft Caress mahonia magically blooms, bringing in the

By NORMAN WINTER TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

blue fruit eaten by birds.

Honeybees coming out of nowhere is always thrilling, even more so in the winter. Such is the case with Soft Caress mahonia which has quickly become one of my all-time favorite shrubs with shocking yellow blooms when nothing else seems to be happening, and yes, bringing in the bees.

Soft Caress mahonia is one of thrilling Southern Living Plant Collection offerings that seems to offer the landscape a 12-month appeal with its wispy fine-leaf texture, dazzling yellow flowers that bring in bees followed by dark blue fruits that bring in birds.

The name Soft Caress tells you this is not your typical mahonia. Indeed it is different with thread like foliage, soft to the touch and bearing no spines. Botanically speaking it is Mahonia eurybracteata subsp. ganpinensis "Soft Caress".

It gives a magical almost fernlike texture to the garden encouraging you to consider it to be anything other than mahonia. When you see those wonderful flower and delightful fruit loved by birds you instantly recognize it.

We had several at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens and I was quick to plant it at my hillside home in Hamilton, Ga. Each December as if it was a special holiday gift of nature they send up their glorious spikes of golden yellow flowers bringing in an abundance of pollinating bees.

> You're starting to find it easily at garden as part of the

lection. But it is not just a hit in the United States it also garnered the 2013 Plant of the year at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show.

Southern Living Plant Col-

Soft Caress is cold hardy from zones 7-9, tough to around zero degrees. Our winter has been pretty brutal, and I'm delighted to report all is well. They will reach about 4 feet in height and almost as wide. At the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden my favorite combination had them with Kaleidoscope abelias and spreading plum yew. I am growing mine with Japanese tassel fern.

They thrived in partial shade, some getting brief direct sun, but high filtered shifting lighting light would be just perfect. The soils should be fertile and well-drained so take the time to bed prep by incorporating 3 to 4 inches of organic matter.

Dig the planting hole two to three times as wide as the rootball but no deeper. You goal is to have the top of the rootball even with the soil surface. Place the plant in the hole and backfill with soil to two-thirds the depth. Tamp the soil and water to settle, add the remaining backfill, repeat the process and apply mulch.

Soft Caress is not a high maintenance plant, pruning out any old ugly or damaged canes as needed or to encourage new young shoots and bushiness. In the woodland garden combine with hostas, ferns, and the repeat blooming Encore azaleas. Clusters of 3 seem to create a most magical appearance.



The Soft Caress mahonia has a wispy fine leaf texture and reach close to 4 feet in height



your garden will function in the coming year. Will you use soaker hoses instead of sprinklers, or set up a rain barrel to collect rain water? How often will you water? Will you set up a rain gauge so that you don't water more often

than is needed? Position watering devices to keep water from falling into storm gutters, walkways or into the street. Keep all outdoor faucets in good repair so as not to drip. Consider plants that use less water overall.

Source: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

- Brenda Weaver

20 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

Beer inspires Chris Pratt to star in his first commercial



This image released by Anheuser-Busch shows actor Chris Pratt in a scene from a Michelob Ultra commercial

ANGELES (AP)— Chris Pratt always declined previous offers to do commercials, but he made an exception for an upcoming Super Bowl spot—mostly because he likes beer.

Pratt will make his advertising debut Sunday in a pair of commercials for Michelob Ultra.

"I've watched every single Super Bowl since 1985," he said. "I'm a Super Bowl guy, and I definitely feel really connected not only to football and to the NFL and the Super Bowl, but also to the commercials... That's always the most exciting part for me, and it feels good to be part of that, like I'm a little tile in the mosaic of American culture."

The star of the "Jurassic World" and "Guardians of the Galaxy" film franchises also joked that being in a Super Bowl ad could "open things up" for him professionally.

"The Super Bowl launches people's careers-like Whitney Houston," Pratt said from his trailer on the set of the Michelob spot. "She sang the national anthem at the Super Bowl and it was like the highlight of the whole day, and then it launched her career... And I'm really hoping this is my Whitney Houston national anthem moment."

Houston was already a Grammy-winning star when she performed at the game in

1991. Pratt was among the world's highest-paid actors last year, according to Forbes.

He joins this year's crop of celebrities starring in Super Bowl ads, including Tiffany Haddish, Cindy Crawford and Morgan Freeman. The airtime alone for a 30-second spot this year costs more than \$5 million this year.

Pratt, 38, said he approached the job just as he would a big-screen gig. He even bumped up his training for his next film, "Cowboy Ninja Viking," so he would be in peak condition for the commercial shoot.

"If I'm going to be having my shirt off... in front of 100 million people, I want to look

good," he said, "so we worked Lord in the first "Guardians" really hard."

The commercial, dubbed "The Perfect Fit," is about balancing a healthy lifestyle with beer-fueled fun.

Pratt famously dropped 60 pounds before playing Star-

film. Incorporating fitness into his life "changed everything," he said.

"It's not just an aesthetic thing," he said. "I sleep better. I feel better."

His favorite is exercising

outdoors. Pratt said spending time in the woods near the farm he owns in Washington doesn't just keep him fit, it keeps him grounded. He particularly loves a trail there that passes through the woods and down to the beach.

'Maze Runner'installment tops charts, Oscars pics get boost

LOS ANGELES (AP)— "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" is the highest grossing film of the weekend, but according to studio estimates Sunday, many moviegoers also chose the first weekend after Oscar nominations to catch up with some awards contenders like "The Shape of Water" which had its highest grossing frame with

\$5.7 million.

In first place, "The Death Cure" took in a higher than expected \$23.5 million. It's the third and final installment in the "Maze Runner" series based on James Dashner's dystopian young adult novels and the weakest opening of the three (the first opened to \$32.5 million and the second to \$30.3 million). Part of that may be attributable to stalled momentum and a two-and-a-half-year gap between the second and third film. "The Death Cure's" release was delayed a year by 20th Century Fox after star

It was still enough to push

Dylan O'Brien's on-set injury

in early 2016.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" back down to second place for the first time in three

- "Maze Runner: The Death Cure," \$23.5 million (\$62.6 million interna-
- "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$16.4 million (\$17.7 million international).
- "Hostiles," \$10.2 million.
- "The Greatest Showman," \$9.5 million (\$10.1 million international)
- "The Post," \$8.9 million (\$9.4 million international)
- "12 Strong," \$8.6 million (\$1.9 million international).
- "Den of Thieves," \$8.4 million (\$846,000 international).
- "The Shape of Water," \$5.7 million (\$3.2 million international).
- "Paddington 2," \$5.6 million (\$2.3 million international)
- 10. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$4.2 million (\$4.8 million international).

weeks. Down only 16 percent, "Jumanji" added \$16.4 million, bringing its total to a robust \$338.1 million.

"It was going to take a big franchise film to knock 'Jumanji' off the top of the chart," said comScore senior media

analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

In third place, the Christian Bale Western "Hostiles" ex-

panded wide to 2,816 theaters in its sixth weekend and earned \$10.2 million. The Hugh Jackman musical "The Greatest Showman" kept going strong in fourth with \$9.5 million, down only 11 percent, and now boasting a total of \$126.5 million.

Many audiences also took advantage of the added theater counts of many Oscar hopefuls following nominations Tuesday. Steven Spielberg's Pentagon Papers drama "The Post," from 20th Century Fox, placed fifth in its third weekend in wide release with \$8.9 million.

With six weeks to go until the Oscars, there is plenty of time to catch up on the best picture nominees, but they won't be without competition—the third installment of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" franchise opens Feb. 9 and on Feb. 16 the highly anticipated "Black Panther" roars into theaters.

Super Bowl ads aim for the heart—and sometimes lower

NEW YORK (AP)—After a year of political and cultural upheaval, Super Bowl advertisers appear to be pulling back from themes of unity in favor of in-game stunts and ads that aim for the heartand in some cases even lower.

The stakes are high since a 30-second spot costs more than \$5 million for airtime alone. The goal is to capture the attention of the more than 110 million viewers expected to tune in to the big game on Feb. 4—ideally by striking an emotional chord with the game audience that will rub off on brands.

Next best: Simply drawing attention, even if an ad offends some people. Worst of all? Being forgotten immediately.

"More people will see me in this than they have in the last three movies I've made," actor and comedian Bill Hader ("Trainwreck") muses in a teaser for Pringles' first Super Bowl spot.

MEASURING THE MOOD

Each year, Super Bowl ads offer a snapshot of the national psyche. Last year, just after President Donald Trump took office, ads offered themes of inclusion. Airbnb showed faces of different ethnicities with the copy "We all belong," and Coke re-ran an ad featuring "America the Beautiful" sung in different languages.

This year, following a year of heated debate over immigration, NFL players taking a knee during the national anthem and the #MeToo movement highlighting sexual misconduct, many Super Bowl advertisers are playing it safer by showcasing famous faces, focusing on inoffensive causes and trying to stand out with silly humor and stunts. Of course, a few are going straight for whatever will grab attention.

GOING LOW

Most people remember the 2004 Super Bowl for the infamous "wardrobe malfunction" when Justin Timberlake ripped

off part of Janet Jackson's shirt during the halftime performance. But it also featured an unusually large number of tasteless ads, including crotch and fart jokes by Sierra Mist, Budweiser and Bud Light and the now-famous Cialis ad that warned about erections lasting longer than four hours.

Advertisers largely dialed it back afterward, excepting a 2009 Doritos ad that included snowglobe-in-the-crotch joke. But this year, Justin Timberlake returns to the Super Bowl ... and so does sock-itto-the-lower-body humor.

Groupon's ad, for instance, stars Tiffany Haddish asking people to support local businesses—then cuts to a wealthy man who plots to crush small businesses, only to double over after players nail him with a kicked football.

Groupon insists the man isn't hit in the groin, although the ad video is ambiguous. "The crotch hit is the lowest thing in the book," Advertising Age columnist Barbara Lippert said in a phone interview. "I was hoping it was retired forever."

The Groupon ad is also notable for its distinctly anti-1 percenter tone. "We think the vast majority of consumers will appreciate the over-thetop comeuppance our 'villain' receives," said Jon Wild, Groupon's head of marketing for North America.

An ad for Febreze air freshener goes all in for toilet humor. It presents a pseudo-documentary about a boy whose **AIMING FOR THE HEART** 'bleep doesn't stink," alluding to a profane phrase that commonly refers to people who are full of ... themselves.

THE RICH AND FAMOUS

It wouldn't be a Super Bowl without celebrities chugging sugary drinks and hawking junk food. Cindy Crawford will reprise an iconic 1992 Super Bowl spot for Pepsi. The beverage maker will also feature Peter Dinklage and Morgan Freeman in linked ads for new versions of Doritos and

Mountain Dew.

In a Pringles ad, Bill Hader has a snack on set and introduces a made-up practice dubbed "flavor stacking," in which the actor stacks together different Pringles varieties. M&Ms has released a teaser showing Danny DeVito dressed as an M&M being dunked in chocolate.

For a non-snacking celebrity appearance, Squarespace hired a bearded Keanu Reeves and sat him by a campfire to tout its web hosting services.

Other advertisers are aiming straight for warm and fuzzy, figuring it's best to bet on "things that are universally liked," said Kelly O'Keefe, managing director of Virginia Commonwealth University's Brandcenter.

NBC created five cinematic 60-second ads showcasing Olympic athletes to drum up excitement for the Winter Olympics, which start airing starting four days after the Super Bowl. The ads showcase Americans athletes such as

skier Lindsey Vonn and figure skater Nathan Chen.

An Anheuser-Busch ad shows a Budweiser brewery producing cans of water instead of beer, highlighting the brewer's donation of drinking water to places in need. Its Stella Artois brand also teamed with Matt Damon to sell a limited edition beer glass, with proceeds also targeted at providing access to water.

Lexus is promoting its new LS 500 luxury sedan, which it is aiming at a 45-to-55-yearold demographic, with an action spot starring the Black Panther, a Marvel superhero.

STUNT MARKETING

Recent Super Bowl ad stunts have yielded mixed results. Snickers isn't returning to the game this year after a live spot last year fell flat. But marketers aren't giving up.

Tide, which last year did a fake-out ad with Terry Bradshaw that appeared to be commentary during the game, will be back with Bradshaw this year.

Angelina Jolie calls for long-term Syrian refugee solution

CAMP, Jordan (AP)-Movie star Angelina Jolie visited a camp for Syrian refugees in Jordan on Sunday, calling for a political solution to Syria's long-running civil war and saying that "humanitarian aid is not a long-term solution."

Children crowded around the U.S. actress as she spoke in a patch of muddy space between hundreds of rows of caravans in the desert camp of Zaatari, less than an hour's

Mark Ruffalo leads counter-event to Trump State of the Union



Ruffalo

YORK Celebriand ties activists have taken part in an evening of

speeches and music in Manhattan billed as "The People's State of the Union."

Monday's event planned in response to President Donald Trump's first State of the Union address on Tuesday.

It was held at The Town Hall, a historic venue founded as a meeting spot for suffragists more than 90 years ago.

Speakers included Mark Ruffalo, Kathy Najimy, John Leguizamo and Democratic New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (dih BLAH'-zee-oh). Andra Day and Common sang their Grammy- and Oscarnominated song "Stand Up for Something" from the film

Hosts of the event included unions, organizers of the Women's March and Planned Parenthood.

drive from the Syrian border. It was Jolie's fifth visit to Jordan.

"It is heartbreaking to return to Jordan and witness the levels of hardship and trauma among Syrian refugees as this war enters its eighth year," Jolie said after meeting refugee families and teenage girls in a U.N.-run community program.

"I'm very proud. You're very strong, all of you," Jolie, a special envoy for the U.N. refugee agency, told them.

Nearly 5.5 million displaced Syrians are hosted by Jordan, Lebanon and other neighboring countries.

Jolie said the hospitality of the overburdened host countries is "an example to the world at a time when solidarity with refugees is in short supply."

She said the U.N. refugee agency received only half



The U.N. refugee agency's special envoy, actress Angelina Jolie kisses a Syrian child during her visit to the Zaatari Syrian Refugee Camp, in Mafraq, Jordan, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018.

the requested funding for the Syria crisis last year and only 7 percent so far this year.

'Humanitarian aid is not a long-term solution. No one wants to get off aid more than a Syrian family," Jolie said.

"A viable political settlement is the only way to create the conditions for Syrians to be able to return to their homes, to end the human suffering and the strain on host countries," she added.

Jordan hosts more than 650,000 registered Syrian refugees, according to the U.N. refugee agency. More than 78,000 live in Zaatari.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Actor Scott Baio denies misconduct claims by former co-star

LOS ANGELES (AP)-Actor Scott Baio is denying a claim made by his former "Charles in Charge" co-star Nicole Eggert that something inappropriate happened between the two when she was a minor. Eggert tweeted Saturday to ask Baio about what happened in his garage when she was a minor. Baio responded in a 16-minute Facebook Live video saying that he is being falsely accused of inappropriately touching and having intercourse with her when she was a minor. Baio said he and Eggert had a consensual relationship after she was over the age of 18. Reps for Baio and Eggert did not immediately respond to request for comment. "Charles in Charge," which aired from 1984 through 1990, was a sitcom about a college student who worked as a family's live-in housekeeper.

Home remodeling show personality accused of molesting girl

OLD LYME, Conn. (AP)— A TV personality who has appeared on home remodeling reality shows has been accused of molesting a 10-yearold girl. Christopher Dionne, of Old Lyme, Connecticut, has appeared on HGTV's pilot of the show "Family Flip" and a yet-to-be-aired A&E show called "House Rescue" and turned himself in to police Monday to face charges of sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor. Police say the 36-year-old Dionne is accused of touching the girl's chest when she was sleeping over after a birthday party for her friend. Dionne also is accused of taking pictures of the girl's chest and asking if she wanted to see his penis. Dionne says the girl put her hand on his stomach and began rubbing and he told her it was inappropriate. A&E says it has suspended production of "House Rescue."

Won't you be his neighbor? Tom Hanks to play Mister Rogers

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood for Tom Hanks, who'll star as Mister Rogers in the upcoming biopic "You Are My Friend." TriStar Pictures announced Monday it has acquired worldwide rights to the film, to be directed by "The Diary of a Teenage Girl" filmmaker

Marielle Heller. The film will focus on the friendship between the host of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" and journalist Tom Junod. Junod reluctantly agreed to profile Fred Rogers only to find "his perspective on life transformed." Production will begin in September, with a 2019 release expected. The role will surely add to the America's Dad image of Hanks, who gave a very Rogers-like opening monologue while hosting "Saturday Night Live" before the 2016 presidential election, swapping his jacket for a sweater and giving America a pep talk. Rogers died in 2003 at age 74.

Ed Sheeran, and his cat, are celebrating his 2 Grammys

NEW YORK (AP)—Ed

Sheeran, and his cat, would like to thank the Grammy voters. After skipping Sunday's ceremony, the singer posted a note of gratitude on his Instagram account and said his cat was celebrating, too. Sheeran won Grammys for best pop solo performance for "Shape of You" and best pop vocal album. "Woke up to the news I won two grammys last night. Thank you!" wrote Sheeran, who included a photo of his orange-and-white cat. "This little fluff-ball is doing a bit of a celebratory dance, lots of love to everyone xx." His victory for best solo performance wasn't welcomed by everyone. Sheeran was the only male on the list, defeating stars such as Lady Gaga, Kesha and Pink. Numerous tweeters expressed their disappointment.

Man puts drinking problem on display in widow's yard

EAR ABBY: I'm a widowed senior who has been dating a very kind man, "Ben," for three years. He's retired; I am not. He does things for and with me, and we enjoy traveling together.

The problem is, Ben usually starts drinking about 3 p.m. at the neighborhood bar. I'm welcome to join him, but I prefer to work at my job or volunteer in the community. By the grace of God, Ben has made it home safely every night, but I'm afraid he will eventually hurt someone.

My son came home for a month because of a job change, and tonight he found Ben passed out in the front yard. I told my son I was sorry, and he said not to be, but he does not want his family—my grandchildren—around when Ben is like this.

I am so embarrassed. I would miss this relationship, but I'm wondering if you think I should end it.

MISSING THE GOOD IN HIM

DEAR MISSING THE GOOD: It must have been clear to you for some time that Ben has a serious drinking problem that needs to be addressed. Whether you should end the relationship depends upon whether he is willing to admit that he has a problem and is willing to do something about it.

Because Ben's drinking is now affecting you and, by extension, your family, it's time to confront him and give him a choice—get help or find another lady friend. There are Alcoholics Anonymous groups worldwide and in almost every community. Steer Ben in that direction, and while you're at it, locate the nearest Al-Anon group for yourself. You will find it both sympathetic and helpful. These groups are as close as your phone directory or your computer. Visit al-anon.org.

DEAR ABBY: I recently utilized a national ancestry company to determine my heritage. I also provided kits to my adult children thinking it would be a fun exercise we all could share. Unfortunately, my good deed came with unexpected consequences.

According to the results, my youngest son isn't related to me. Apparently, unbeknownst to me, my ex-wife had an affair 25

What do I do now? Should I confront my ex to verify the affair and learn the identity of my son's father? How do we tell my son? Should we? How do we handle our families? Keep it a secret? I would appreciate your guidance.

UNKNOWN FAMILY TREE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



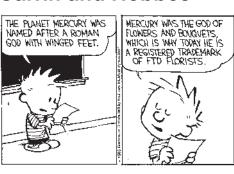
DEAR UNKNOWN: Before making accusations or announcements, it is important that you determine the accuracy of the test to make absolutely sure the results are conclusive. If a second test verifies the first, your son should be informed because he has a right to know his familial medical history—and HE should talk to his mother about who his biological father is.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

22 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield_®



By Jim Davis

By Glenn McCoy



Adamahome





MHY THEY NAMED A PLANET

AFTER THIS GUY, I CAN'T IMAGINE.



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex





CROSSWORD

30 Mer-

maid's

home

33 "Rubber

baby

buggy

for one

36 Band

aide

37 Texas

dish

38 Narrow

cuts

41 Vinyl

DOWN

1 Ignited

anew

39 Melodies

40 Pigs' digs

records

bumpers."

ACROSS

1 Ump

4 Actor

7 Mani

part

8 Man's

man

lunch

exhibited

Blair was

10 Leafy

11 Being

13 Tony

one

16 Still

17 "Star

Wars"

18 Genetic

19 Biogra

phy

20 Datum

21 Parody

23 Big hit

25 Lure

26 Ticket

half

28 Fran-

27 Lab eggs

cisco's

letters

director

Gibson

counter



2 Dutch

cheese

3 Beetho-

ven's

only

4 Food

from

5 Grace-

6 Maui

7 Rid of

rind

8 Sopra

no's

pride

10 CIA

9 Aquarium

favorites

opera-

tive

Solution time: 23 mins.

heaven

land idol

garlands

opera

By Eugene Sheffer

12 BenFest

14 Far

waitress

warmer

15 Squealer

19 Parcel of

land

20 "Terrif!"

21 Relish

22 Baby

e.g.

cargo

ton" or

"Rent'

25 Automa-

short

28 Tax-

29 God

ton, for

26 Locations

payer's

dread

30 Mixes up

31 Morays

32 "Entou-

rage"

dates

35 Model in

role **34** Guys'

24 "Hamil-

23 Pack

grands.



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mario Williams, 33; Justin Timberlake, 37; Kerry Washington, 41: Portia de Rossi, 45.

Happy Birthday: Keeping life simple and consistent will take up a lot of time. Strive for perfection and maintaining balance and integrity. Don't let others sway you to take part in projects that aren't geared toward your own advancement. Focus on your success, not giving all you've got to advance others. It's your turn to be recognized for what you have to offer. Your numbers are 3, 11, 19, 24, 27, 35, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll find it much easier to get along with others today. Share your ideas and be willing to put your time and energy behind your plans. Offer incentives and bring about positive change

and you will make a difference. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Dealing with children, friends or your loved one will not be as easy as you hope. Offer space to others and take time to consider how you feel and what you want to do. Avoid unpredict-

able people and indulgent behavior. •• GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Fix up your surroundings. Whether at work or at home, you will be more productive if you are comfortable and relaxed. Expressing the way you want to do things will be your forte. Ro-

mance will improve your personal life. ���� CANCER (June 21-July 22): Tidy up any unfinished business. Review contracts and investments and consider what

you can do to improve your financial status.

Think twice before you get involved in a joint venture. Don't mix business with pleasure. Avoid indulgent behavior.

ings. Don't blow situations out of proportion or overspend in order to make an impression. Moderation coupled with sincerity and affection should be sufficient. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A problem

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you love

someone, don't be shy -- share your feel-

you face at work will result in being asked a slew of questions. Abide by the rules and regulations if you don't want to end up being blamed for any wrongdoing. Someone will be eager to make you look bad. 🛇 😂

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Past debt will require attention. Don't lend or borrow money or make promises you won't be able to fulfill. Stay focused on the best way to make positive personal changes that will make your life less stressful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Refuse to let your emotions take over or to be tempted by someone who is a poor influence. Walk away from indulgent situations and

people. Proper diet, exercise and spending habits need to be incorporated into your routine. •• SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make your move as long as

you have done your homework. A deal that comes your way will have potential, but don't overextend yourself in order to take part. Know your boundaries and limitations before you say OK. OOOOO

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Dig in

and don't stop until you are satisfied with what you have accomplished. Don't let anyone disrupt your plans. OOO AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A pick-

and get things done. Don't worry about

what others do or say. Set your own pace

me-up will do you good. Update your image or plan something special with someone you love. Consider what you can do without overspending. Change begins within. Assess your situation and do what's best for you. ••••

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have plenty to deal with regarding negotiations, contracts, personal investments

and medical concerns. Don't believe everything you hear. Look for alternatives to what's being suggested. Stick to your budget regardless of temptation or peer pressure.

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, supportive and colorful. You are persuasive and unpredictable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		8	7			5	3
	4				9		
3				5			
3 5 2 8				6 9			
2			•	9			
8	6	1		3	7	9	
1			8	2			9
6			3	4			9 5
	9	3			8	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

			.0. u	., .	71110			
6	8	2	7	5	3	9	1	4
9	4	5	1	2	8	7	3	6
3	1	7	6	4	9	2	5	8
7	2	4	9	8	5	3	6	1
8	9	1	3	6	4	5	7	2
5	3	6	2	7	1	4	8	9
4	6	3	5	1	2	8	9	7
2	7	9	8	3	6	1	4	5
1	5	8	4	9	7	6	2	3

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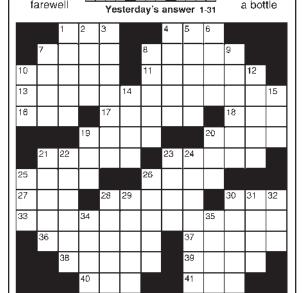
Wonderword OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AR	rof	AUG	URY								Solu	tion	9 le	tters
S	С	Ε	R	Е	G	Е	L	1	Т	R	0	S	D	Α
U	Ε	Α	Т	I	С	I	С	Ε	R	О	G	Ο	D	S
L	Ν	Ģ	Α	R	Т	\$	D	R	-1	В	٧	O	1	Т
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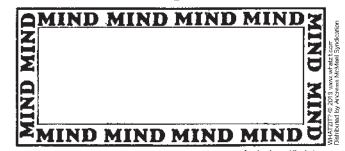
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Pats enjoy big Super Bowl experience edge over Eagles

(AP)—The Eagles are playing some of their best football heading into Sunday's Super Bowl matchup with the Patriots.

One thing Philadelphia can't contend with is New England's huge experience advantage in the big game.

On the 53-man active roster the Patriots brought to Minnesota, 32 players have a combined 60 games of Super Bowl experience.

Tom Brady alone has been to the Super Bowl seven times during his 18-year career, winning five.

By comparison, the Eagles have seven players on their active roster who've won a Super Bowl. Two of those players, LeGarrette Blount and Chris Long, won their rings last season with the Patriots. The others are Torrey Smith, Malcolm Jenkins, Corey Graham, Dannell Ellerbe and Will Beatty. An eighth player, Chris Maragos, is on injured reserve with a knee injury.

It's a huge gulf. By comparison, the 2015 Panthers that lost to the Broncos in the Super Bowl that season had three players who had won a ring: Ed Dickson (Baltimore), Roman Harper (New Orleans) and Michael Oher (Baltimore).

But the Patriots say it's nothing they will spend time talking about this week.

"I think it's overrated," said special teams captain Matt Slater, who will be appearing in his fourth Super Bowl.

Defensive end Trey Flowers said the coaching staff hasn't mentioned last year's Super Bowl win since it came up in film study prior to their regular-season meeting with



Atlanta back in October.

"It's a brand new team, so I wouldn't say last year's experience will have anything to do with the outcome of this game," Flowers said. "This team has a lot of different guys from a year ago, so it's something you've got to do all over again as far as experience goes."

Yes and no.

New England actually returns 31 players who were on last year's Super Bowl roster against the Falcons. That doesn't include injured

linebacker Dont'a Hightower or receiver Julian Edel-

Two of the Patriots' additions since then both played in

the Super Bowl with other teams. Linebacker James Harrison won two rings with the Pittsburgh Steelers and defensive lineman Ricky Jean Francois played on the San Francisco 49ers team end of the 2012 season.

"We know what to expect,

Wentz talk about his faith.

the Philadelphia Eagles.

you've got to perform," linebacker Kyle Van Noy said. "So there's really no upper hand. You've got to just play Philadelphia Eagles' Nick Foles and New England Patriots' Tom Brady answer questions during NFL football Super Bowl 52 Opening Night Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, at the Xcel Center in St. Paul, Minn.

and play at a high level."

He said that is because there is respect across the board for what backup quarterback Nick Foles has accomplished since Carson Wentz tore his ACL in Week 14.

"Everyone wants to hate on Nick Foles, but he's done a great job," Van Noy said. "He's still a high-caliber quarterback, like Carson Wentz. Nick Foles is a great quarterback who's done a great job. They distribute the ball really well and their run game is at a high level."

More than experience on either side, linebacker Elandon Roberts said the biggest challenge is not getting caught up in the emotions that come with playing in a Super Bowl.

"Obviously it's all the marbles right here, but it's everything you work for," Roberts said. "So you've got to think back to what got you here: doing your job, not getting overwhelmed and what not. As long as we do that that takes away most of it."

Royals send Moss, Buchter to A's for Hahn, Fillmyer



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The

Royals traded designated hitter Brandon Moss and lefthander Rvan Buchter to the Oakland A's on Monday night for right-handed pitchers Jesse Hahn and Heath Fillmyer.

Not to mentioned a bit of financial relief

Moss was owed \$8.25 million for the upcoming season, and the Royals sent \$3.25 million to Oakland as part of the deal. That equates to a savings of about \$5 million that the Royals, who have been trying to trim payroll, could use to sign free agent first baseman Eric Hosmer to a long-term deal.

Moss hit a disappointing .207 with 22 homers and 50 RBI for the Royals last season, and he was one of the names floated as recently as last week as the starting first baseman heading into spring.

But the Royals have been trying to woo Hosmer, a free agent for the first time, and have reportedly offered him a seven-year, \$140 million contract. That size of deal would make it difficult for general manager Dayton Moore to simultaneously succeed in his desire to trim payroll, which ballooned over the past two seasons, unless he was able to shred financial obligations elsewhere.

"It's been a unique offseason, as you know. Unlike any I've been part of," Moore said of the rather tepid free agent market. "We remain interested in obviously bringing back Eric and we're hoping for others as well, but right now I think it's important we continue to not get antsy, not get overanxious with the market, and we'll see what happens."

The Royals announced earlier Monday that they had signed shortstop Alcides Escobar, another one of their core free agents, to a \$2.5 million, one-year deal with \$1.5 million in performance bonuses.

"Economically we have to get our payroll back in check," Moore said last week. "I was very candid what we had to do, that it's simply not acceptable (to have a large payroll) in our market if you're going to run a team that's healthy and thriving longtime. We have some challenges but challenges we're prepared for and ready for. I believe we're ready to move forward."

Hahn went 3-6 with a 5.30 ERA in 13 starts for Oakland last season, and is expected to compete for a spot in Kansas City's rotation. Fillmyer went 11-5 with a 3.49 ERA at Double-A Midland.

Buchter was 3-3 with a 3.05 ERA with San Diego when he was traded along with Trevor Cahill and Brandon Maurer in late July. He went 1-0 with a 2.67 ERA in 29 appearances for the Royals.

Meanwhile, Moss will have an opportunity to hit the reset on his career in Oakland.

that came up short against Baltimore in the Super Bowl at the

but at the end of the day, the game and get ready for it

Strong faith binds Eagles, attracts new fans because of their faith.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Seventy-two-year-old Susan "It truly is a brotherhood," Collesidis was never a football fan until she heard Carson Then she was hooked on When Wentz found out his

newest fan was fighting an advanced stage of cancer, he sent her an encouraging message with inspirational Bible verses.

"How much joy I get from watching him and his team play supernatural football every week," she said after reading it.

Two weeks later, Collesidis lost her battle with cancer the night before Thanksgiving.

"The message meant so much to Susan because she admired Carson as a person and believer more than a football player," son-in-law Doug Horton said. "He's the reason she started caring about sports and she couldn't wait to watch the Eagles every week."

Wentz isn't playing in the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots because he tore his ACL in Week 14. But backup quarterback Nick Foles also is a "brother in Christ" and one of the leaders in a locker room filled with guys who have formed a strong bond

Pro Bowl tight end Zach Ertz said. "Those guys are holding me accountable. Off the field, I'm holding them accountable. We truly care about each other, we truly care about the growth that each individual has in the word, as believers, as well as friends and family. There are a lot of guys who are truly trying to boost me up and keep me focused on the main thing, which is ob-

Christian players openly expressing their faith is nothing new in the NFL: Reggie White, Kurt Warner, Tim Tebow, Ray Lewis and Russell Wilson among many others. But these Eagles are an unusually close-knit group.

viously the word. ...'

"There is a stronger connection here," said defensive end Steven Means, who played for three other teams. "It's another level because we push each other in certain areas that we are flawed at and open ourselves up to each other. We text each other throughout the day making sure that everybody is on the right path and doing the right thing."

Torrey Smith played with Lewis on the Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens

in 2012. They had a solid core of Christian players who used their faith for inspiration during their journey. Smith also spent two years in San Francisco before the wide receiver came to Philadelphia this season. He said it's dif-

"I've been lucky to be part of three organizations that do have a very strong Christian presence," Smith said. "The difference here is a lot of younger guys lead."

It starts with Wentz, the face of the franchise.

Wentz went on a mission trip to Haiti last May with former teammate Jordan Matthews and a group led by Kyle Horner, lead pastor of The Connect Church. He delivered a sermon a month later at a church back home in North Dakota and launched his Audience of One Foundation in July. Wentz and several teammates even created a devotional video series for the Bible app.

Four days before the season opener, Wentz and teammates Trey Burton and Stefen Wisniewski spoke at a faith event in front of a crowd of 2,000 people who sat in the rain for a couple hours to hear their favorite players share their testimony.

Griffin goes to Pistons in blockbuster trade

DETROIT (AP)— The Detroit Pistons were finalizing a trade Monday night to acquire star forward Blake Griffin from the Los An-

geles Clippers, according to a person with knowledge of the deal.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced. The Pistons would send forward Tobias Harris, guard Avery Bradley and center Boban Marjanovic to Los Angeles, with the Clippers also receiving draft picks. Detroit also would receive forward Brice Johnson and center Willie Reed.

ESPN first reported the deal.

Griffin is averaging 22.6 points, 7.9 rebounds and 5.4 assists in 33 games this season, but the Clippers have been plagued by injuries and are ninth in the Western Conference standings.

Detroit is struggling as well.

The Pistons have lost eight straight heading into Tuesday night's game against Cleve-

The 28-year-old Griffin has been the face of the Clippers while playing his entire career with the team. Last July, he agreed to a \$171 million, five-year deal, ending a brief flirtation with free agency. He told his teammates, coach Doc Rivers and owner Steve Ballmer, "I want my legacy to be a Clipper."

The deal didn't include a no-trade clause.

The Clippers drafted Griffin first overall out of Oklahoma in 2009. However, he missed the 2009-10 season after surgery on his broken left kneecap, the first of several injuries that have marred his career.

Griffin missed 21 games last season and 47 in 2015-16 because of injuries.

As a rookie, he was an All-Star, won the slam dunk contest and was named NBA Rookie of the Year.

He has averaged 21.6



Detroit's season was looking promising until a late-December injury to point guard Reggie Jackson. The Pistons have stumbled while he's been out with a sprained right ankle.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Gi-

annis Antetokounmpo had

31 points and 18 rebounds.

scored all 10 of his points

in the fourth quarter and the

Milwaukee Bucks beat the

Philadelphia 76ers 107-85

on Monday night for their

fourth straight win since fir-

Antetokounmpo picked up

his 22nd double-double of

the season to lead the Bucks,

who tightened up their de-

fense after allowing the Six-

ers to score 22 of their first 26

Antetokounmpo then as-

serted himself in the lane,

and Philadelphia was hard-

pressed to contain the athletic

6-foot-11 forward with All-

Star center Joel Embiid sit-

In Denver, Kyrie Irving

scored 10 of his 27 points

in the fourth quarter, Jay-

len Brown hit a go-ahead

3-pointer with 34 seconds

remaining and the struggling

Celtics edged the Nuggets.

ting out the game for rest.

Celtics 111,

Nuggets 110

ing coach Jason Kidd.

points in the paint.

Dellavedova

Matthew

The addition of Griffin would give Detroit's frontcourt another standout alongside Andre Drummond, but it also would represent a clear change in course from the roster that the Pistons had assembled. Detroit acquired Bradley

in a trade with Boston last offseason, but he's in the final season of his contract. Harris has been impressive for the Pistons this season, shooting a career-best 41 percent from 3-point range.

Although neither team an-

Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin (32) shoots against New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018. The Clippers won, 112-103.

nounced the deal Monday, there was plenty of reaction on social media. Harris had a message on his accounts thanking Detroit for its support. Griffin's Twitter account had its own message with no words-just an image of actor Will Smith with a surprised expression on his face.

For the Clippers, moving Griffin would continue a makeover of a franchise that has never made it past the second round of the playoffs.

The Clippers traded All-Star point guard Chris Paul to Houston last summer. He had been credited with bringing respectability to the team that was once the laughingstock of the league. Without Paul, Los Angeles won its first four games to open the season, and then lost nine of its next 11. The team is one game above .500 going into Tuesday night's game against Portland.

Paul's replacement, Patrick Beverley, has missed the entire season after right knee surgery. Also missing time have been DeAndre Jordan, Danilo Gallinari, Austin Rivers and Milos Teodosic.

Beckham's MLS team in Miami is born

MIAMI (AP)—David Beckham had a speech prepared and well-rehearsed for the event four years in the MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER place that you chermaking, then abandoned his script shortly after taking the confetti-covered stage.

Fitting, since nothing in his quest went as planned.

"Bringing an MLS club to Miami," Beckham said, "has been a hell of a journey."

The journey is now complete, in some respects: Beckham has his team, and Miami is back in Major League Soccer.

Beckham and MLS announced Monday that the long-awaited franchise is now born. It took Beckham nearly four years just to get this far with Miami, and there are a slew of details still to come -such as the team name, logo, when it will start play and when the stadium will open.

The biggest hurdle, it seems, has now been cleared.

Welcome, Miami," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said. "Hola, Miami," Beckham

said, a nod to the multicultural makeup of the city.

The team will play in a 25,000-seat, privately funded stadium, though it remains unclear when that will open—a very possible scenario is that the team begins play in 2020, and moves into its permanent home in time for the 2021 season. Part of the deal also is that Beckham's group will build a training center and an academy focused on developing local players.

"Our pledge to our fans in Miami and around the world is

simple: your team will always strive to make you proud on the pitch, our stadium will be a

ish visiting, and our impact in the community and on South Florida's youth will run deep,' Beckham said.

Beckham is a global iconin the soccer world, the entertainment world, even the fashion world. He started his career with Manchester United and also played for Real Madrid, Los Angeles Galaxy, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain. He was a fixture in international matches for England for years, and won four championships in four different leagues around the globe.

He told a story of how as a 12-year-old, a coach told him that he wouldn't play professionally or for England. He persevered anyway, became perhaps the biggest name in the game when his playing career was at its peak—and the same doggedness was necessary to get a deal done in Miami, after the quest for a franchise nearly failed several times along the way.

"We're here because of David," said Marcelo Claure, one of Beckham's partners.

Monday's event was intentionally benign in many respects. The MLS logo for all the signage had a black background, with the word "Miami" printed below it in white. Specific details were few and far between.

"We'll be the best team," Beckham said. "When I was awarded the team, there was only one city for me. Only one city, and it was here."

points, 9.3 rebounds and 4.2 assists in his career.

Bucks win fourth straight since firing of Kidd Denver had a chance to win in dramatic fashion at the end but Torrey Craig's tip-in of Will Barton's long attempt from 3-point range was too late.

Irving finished 11 of 17 from the field to lead the Celtics to just their second win in seven games. Jayson Tatum added 20 points and Marcus Morris had 14 off the bench.

Hawks 105, Timberwolves 100

In Atlanta, Kent Bazemore scored 22 points, including a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 2:09 remaining, and the Hawks rallied after trailing by 11 in the third quarter to beat the Timberwolves.

Bazemore's clutch 3 gave the Hawks a 99-96 lead they did not relinquish. He added a blocked shot following a steal by Minnesota's Jeff Teague and another basket to stretch the lead back to three.

A layup by Taj Gibson cut Atlanta's lead to 101-100. Following a missed short jumper by Dennis Schroder, Minnesota called timeout with 14.5 seconds remaining.

Unable to make the inbounds pass, Teague was whistled for a five-second violation before trying to call a timeout.

Schroder had 18 points, including four free throws in the final 11.3 seconds.

Pacers 105, **Hornets 96**

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo scored 25 points, Myles Turner added 22 and the Pacers pulled away late for a victory over the Hornets.

The Pacers have won two in a row and four of five.

Kemba Walker finished with 23 points and a trio of 3-pointers to lead the Hornets, who have lost two straight and four of six.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 11 rebounds for Charlotte. Nicolas Batum made five 3s and wound up with 22 points.

Grizzlies 120, **Suns 109**

In Memphis, Tyreke Evans scored 27 points, Wayne Selden added 17 points and the Grizzlies sent Phoenix to its fifth straight loss with a victory over the Suns.

Deyonta Davis and Marc Gasol both scored 12 points for Memphis, Gasol also grabbed 10 rebounds. Davis missed only one of his six shots on the night, part of the Grizzlies shooting 57 percent for the game.

T.J. Warren led the Suns with 24 points on 10 of 18 shooting, while Josh Jackson scored 20 points.

Heat 95, Mavericks 88

In Dallas, Hassan Whiteside had 25 points and 14 rebounds as the Heat completed another season series sweep of the Mavericks.

The Heat never trailed after Goran Dragic had a steal that led to Tyler Johnson's tiebreaking 3-pointer to make it 38-35 just under 4 1/2 minutes left in the first half. Their lead went to double-digits again after Whiteside had consecutive baskets midway through the third quarter.

This is the 14th time in their 30 seasons that the Heat, who beat Dallas 113-101 at home on Dec. 22, have swept the regular-season series.

Tebuteb: NMA coaches getting creative

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb said their coaches have found creative ways to train their athletes as they prepare for two upcoming regional events.

"I can comfortably say that, our national coach Elias [Rangamar] and the other coaches will tell you, that we have been training even without a proper track facility," Tebuteb told Saipan Tribune.

The track oval at the Oleai Sports Complex remains closed even if the resurfacing work at the facility has been completed middle of 2017.

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Don Hallmark clinched

the final spot on the Mari-

anas Golf Association's

ment after topping

monthly event held last Sun-

day on the west course of the

Hallmark survived the

windy and occasional af-

ternoon rains to finish with

a gross score of 93. With a

handicap of 24, he earned a

69 net for a one-shot win over

August Ace Ned Norita's 70.

Norita ended up with a

gross score of 78 and has

an eight handicap. MGA

president J.J. Atalig, the

April Ace winner and a three

handicapper, was third at 72

following a 75 gross. The

December Monthly Ace

also served as the first day of

MGA's yearend Ace of Aces

Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

the group's December

Ace of Aces Tourna-

Other improvements are still being done at the Oleai track and all projects are ex-

pected to finish before a regional tournament in June.

NMA is preparing for the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships that Saipan

will be hosting from June 14 to 16, while the CNMI's track stars will also compete in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap from July 15 to 27.

"Our coaches consistently remind our athletes that there are no boundaries and limits for training, perhaps in all sports. They [coaches] possess a degree of excellence in our programs," Tebuteb said.

Rangamar, who is also

monthly Ace winners Peter

"Dung" Tenorio (January),

"Kamikaze" Camacho

(March), Gerald Guer-

rero (May), Calvin Ya-

magishi (June), Jason

Sablan (July), Rob Da-

vis (September), James

Benavente (October),

Marco Peter (November).

MGA vice president Da-

vid Largent led the closest

to the pin winners at No. 3

with Camacho clinching the

same award at No. 7, and

Guerrero and Norita besting

everyone at Nos. 13 and 17,

MGA has 30 active mem-

bers made up of young and se-

nior, rookies and veterans, men,

and women CNMI residents

For more information, call

Yamagishi at 287-8894 or

email MarianasGolf670@

gmail.com or visit MGA's

Facebook page at http://

www.facebook.com/Mari-

anasGolfAssociation.

who enjoy the game of golf.

respectively.

(February), Jessica Sonoda

Hallmark is MGA's December Ace

NMA's development officer, has been leading the training of CNMI national athletes, including medal hopefuls Zarinae Sapong and Beo Ngirchongor, using other places on the island to conduct practices.

"Our coaches' training may be rigorous, but it possesses a distinctive character that our kids value," said Tebuteb.

He added that the decision to allow athletes to use the Oleai Sports Complex falls on the Northern Marianas

Sports Association.

"Implementation for the use of the proper training facility [Oleai Sports Complex] is administrative and with NMSA. Our coaches are creative enough. More importantly, we respect NMSA's disposition to

the sports complex," the NMA official added.

In other news, the NMA will also hold its annual sponsors appreciation dinner tomorrow, Feb. 1, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at Surf Club in Chalan Kanoa.

Federer on Nadal's heels in rankings

PARIS—Roger Federer's victory in the Australian Open has taken him to within 155 points of world number one Rafael Nadal in the ATP rankings released on Monday.

Nadal, who was knocked out in the quarter-finals in Melbourne, has 9,760 points with Federer on 9,605.

Marin Cilic, who took Federer to five sets in the final, moves up three places to a career-high ranking of third.

Chung Hyeon is rewarded for his surprise run to the semi-finals with a 29-place leap to 29th in the world.

Roger Federer is set to continue defying Father Time after announcing he will return to defend his title next year, the Swiss said on Monday.

The 36-year-old notched up his 20th grand slam title and sixth at Melbourne Park on Sunday with a 6-2 6-7(5) 6-3 3-6 6-1 victory over Cilic, but initially forgot to say whether or not he planned to defend the title.

"Yeah, I'd love to come back. I know I forgot to say that after the match," a blearyeyed Federer told reporters on Monday. "But I hope I come back again next year." Federer equaled the record

of six Australian Open men's schedule. titles, held by Novak Djokovic and Roy Emerson, and em-

ulated Ken Rosewall's feat of claiming three grand slam titles after the age of 35.

His longevity has in part been put down to the careful management of his playing

Despite being fully fit, he skipped the entire claycourt

After its debut loss, Island-

season last year to concentrate on Wimbledon, a decision that paid off with

his eighth title on the southwest London grass courts.

He reiterated on Monday that he would continue to manage his schedule tightly and despite being within sight of the world's top

Ali'I, while in the co-ed U15,

it was CNMI United versus

Three games are also set

for tomorrow with CTSI Pet-

malu colliding against Tinsel

Toes in the co-ed U12 divi-

Marianas United.

Switzerland's Roger Federer tosses the ball to serve to Croatia's Marin Cilic during the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018.

ranking, a decision on whether or not his next tournament would be in Dubai in late Feb-

ruary had yet to be made.

"We were in talks with them (Dubai organizers) but when the (Australian Open) tournament started, I just said 'look, if it's okay, I'd like to decide after the tournament'," he said.

"That's an ideal scenario for me. After the tournament, I'll know how I feel... did I come out injured or not?

"So now we know what the situation is.

"I also have to decide on the claycourt season so all these things are kind of interlinked.

"But it's possible I'll play something, but it's also possible that maybe I just don't play anything (for a while)."

Federer said he would make the decision about his schedule after spending some time with family at home in Switzerland, where he hoped the fact he had won the Australian Open title again would finally sink in.

championship. Hallmark joins other

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sports

"What we really spoke

He added that his team composed of Cuki Alvarez, Melchor Manibusan, and Steve Oshiro—pointed out lessons that they will further discuss when he gets back to training

a great team. All I know how to do is work hard. I'm go-

get back into the UFC octagon again and get a win for the Marianas. Hard work is the only way," said Camacho.

nents are the other areas that Team Crank will be working

was named Fight of the Night. was more active inside and even rocked Camacho with kicks and punches.

"One take away is learning how to dig deep and continue to push forward o matter how hurt I was. His body kicks and body shots slowed me down in the second and third [rounds]. I had to suck it all up and find the strength deep down to continue to push," Camacho said.

niacop, Louie Calayag, Joshua De Leon, and Joshua Abragan knocked in one goal apiece for CTSI Petmalu, while only Taka Borja hit the board for Islanders FC.

terfly. Xu is Tsunami Saipan's

second bet in the 50m butter-

fly, while his other event is the

50m backstroke. Aasish will

also compete in the 50m but-

terfly after opening the meet

via the 100m IM event, while

her sister Ashley is racing in

the 100m IM, too and the 50m

freestyle. Kouki will take part

in the 50m breaststroke and

100M IM, while Batallones

will join the 50m breaststroke

"This team has five mem-

bers who are CNMI record

holders (age group). It is our

and 50m freestyle events.

SUPLEX

TSUNAMI

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From Page 28

ers FC was hoping to bounce back last night as it was scheduled to duel La Fabrica. Two more matches were played last night at the resumption of action in the 14team tournament. In the coed U12, Betde faced Kanoa

first time to send a team with more than half of its members holding CNMI records so I can say that we have a strong squad," Kimura told

Saipan Tribune. The Tsunami Saipan coach added the club set goals for each swimmer with Ashley and Aleksenko expected to deliver the goods once more after their impressive performance in the same competition last year.

"Isaiah Aleksenko and Ashley Dangol are the defending champions. This year, their target is not only to defend their titles, but also to break meet records and qualify for Junior sion at 5:30pm; Fake Madrid challenging Betde United in

"Aasish Dangol was also a champion last year and missed the 100m IM finals (he finished ninth). So, Aasish must redeem himself. For Nanaka Watanabe and Asaka Litulumar, this meet is their final Tokyo Junior Sprint and they will be aiming to get to the A Finals. Hans Xu, Kouki Watanabe and Maria Batallones are also going for the A Finals in their events," Kimura added.

To make it to the A Finals, swimmers must finish in the Top 8 in the preliminary races. Those who will miss the cut and are ranked No. 9 to 16 af-

CTSI Petmalu going for win No. 2 against ABCD FC at 7:30pm. Tournament organizers will

the U15 tiff at 6:30pm; and

then revert to their seven-game schedule this Sunday with two matches each in the U12 and U15 and three in the U18.

Olympics this summer. I believe they can do it," Kimura said.

go to the B Finals. The eight Tsunami Saipan members will be among the more than 3,000 swimmers who will compete in the two-

ter the preliminaries will then

day meet, which changed its age limit from 14 to 12 years old for this year's meet. Joining the Tsunami Saipan swimmers in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2018 are assistant coach Sanjay Dangol and team manager Yuko Kimura. After the competition, the eight swim-

mers will attend a training camp with a Japanese team from March 5 to 7. The Tsunami Saipan delegation will leave Saipan for Tokyo on Feb. 28.

'CRANK'

techniques in other combat

about is getting a lot more wrestling and jiu-jitsu mat time in. Dober being a striker, I didn't anticipate to grapple as much as we did in the fight. We have to be ready for anything and everything," the Marianas pride said.

once they arrive in Guam. "Great lessons learned with

ing to get back in the gym as

soon as possible and work to

Being aggressive and keeping the pressure on his oppoon when they resume training.

Dober, during their bout that

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 **27**

2017 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament Boys Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The 670 Sonics XVIII's Sean Apasan, right, is fouled by M&M Salas Ol'Aces' Dean Blake during the first half of their title game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



The 670 Sonics XVIII's Rafael Ordona, right, pulls up for a jumper in front of the defense of two M&M Salas Ol'Aces players.



M&M Salas Ol'Aces' Dean Blake, right, blocks a shot from the 670 Sonics XVIII's Keeanu Diaz.



The 670 Sonics XVIII's June Alipio, center, splits the defense of M&M Salas Ol'Aces' Dean Blake, left, and Kevin Kabiriel.



The 670 Sonics XVIII's Khristian Itaas, right, drives against a M&M Salas Ol'Aces player.



M&M Salas Ol'Aces and 670 Sonics XVIII players battle for the rebound.



M&M Salas Ol'Aces Coby Santos loses the ball to the baseline, while the 670 Sonics XVIII's John Malasarte, left, and Emmanuel Cobacha stay close in the play.



The 670 Sonics XVIII's Bryan De Guzman, left, tries to muscle his way into the defense of M&M Salas Ol'Aces' Coby Santos.



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Pats enjoy big **Super Bowl** experience edge over Eagles

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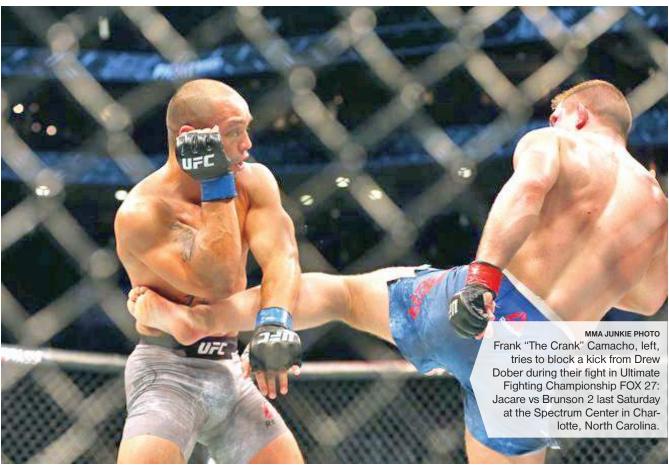
Griffin goes to Pistons in blockbuster trade

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Crank' back to drawing board



By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

rank "The Crank" Camacho will only get better after his tough loss to Drew Dober in the Ultimate Fighting Championship on FOX 27: Jacare vs Brunson 2 last weekend at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"I need to improve everywhere," Camacho told Saipan Tribune in an exclusive

email interview after Team Crank watched and assessed the fight to see where he had the advantage against Dober and the areas they need to work on more.

The 28-year-old suffered a unanimous decision defeat to Dober with one judge scor-

ing the bout, 30-27, for the Elevation Fight Team Warrior, who improved

his record to 19-8 with four wins by knockout and nine by submission. The two other judges gave the fight to Dober in similar scores, 29-28.

After the loss, Camacho knew he needs to improve his

See 'CRANK' on Page 26

Suplex City edges ABCD FC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Kensington Hotelbacked Suplex City nosed out ABCD FC, 3-2, for its debut win in the co-ed U18 division of Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Katrina Costales scored Suplex City's lone goal in the second half to help her team withstand ABCD FC's comeback bid. Suplex City was ahead, 2-0, at the start of the 20-minute second half, thanks to Alex Park's pair of goals.

ABCD FC then threatened Suplex City when Anela Duenas and Paulyn Joyce found the back of the net. However, Costales' goal proved to be the difference in Suplex City's close win. Joining Costales and Park on the Kensington-supported team are Oliver Lee, Sebastien Manabat, Edwin Kim, Rintaro Miyawaki, Jerlyn Castillo, Therize Millare, and Esther Jones.

On the ABCD FC side, Duenas and Joyce's teammates include Krizel Tuazon, Dai and Lilian Podziewski, Jonah Pohl, Clayton Izuka, Merrick Toves, Juan Sanchez, and Kirt Andon.

Kim was Suplex City's

goalie and made 12 saves, while Toves was the former's counterpart at ABCD FC with the latter tallying 21 saves.

> In other results in the division, CTSI Petmalu and Bruv had easier vic-

tories.

Bruve clobbered La Fabrica, 9-0, behind the three goals of Guine Borja. Gillain Villagomez and John Michael Rojas added two apiece, while Alan Hinson and Mareko Tekopua contributed one each. John Bucayo was Bruv's goalie in the team's first game and recorded 14 saves, while other members of the winning squad are Grace Choi, James Ermitanio, Eun Syu Hahn, and Emmanuel Aniana.

Jason Quimzon and Jonathan Mindanao combined for 26 saves for La Fabrica, which also has Brandon Tenorio, Kiara Manganti, Leisha Sally, Jacob Montes, Jeffrey Seo, Joshua Malih, Hannah Santos, and Ian Maniago on its roster.

Meanwhile, CTSI Petmalu led the opening day winners in the division after a 5-1 triumph over Islanders FC in the curtain-raiser in the co-ed U18 age group.

Britany Wally, Diana Ma-

See SUPLEX on Page 26

8 Tsunami Saipan swimmers to join Tokyo meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2018 Saipan selected eight swimmers to represent the club in

in March.

Tsunami Saipan head coach



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tokyo-bound Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers pose for a group photo before a training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.

76Tsunami

Hiro Kimura said they will be sending Nanaka and Kouki Watanabe, Asaka Litulumar, Isaiah Aleksenko, Hans Xu, Ashley and Aasish Dangol, and Maria Batallones to the March 3 to 4 meet that will be held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.

The eight swimmers made the grade as they recorded AA times in their respective events. They will compete in two events each with team captain Nanaka joining the 50m breaststroke and 100m individual medley races, vice captain Litulumar participating in the 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle, and Aleksenko also swimming in the 50m freestyle and 50m but-

See TSUNAMI on Page 26



Players of the Kensington Hotel-backed Suplex City gather for a group photo before their game against ABCD FC in the co-ed U18 division of Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.